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1863.

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# First Annual Report

OF THE

UNITED STATES

**CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.**



# FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

Thursday Night, January 29, 1863.

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THE Anniversary was a meeting of great numbers, enthusiasm, and power. The American Academy of Music was filled, thousands having applied for tickets of admission, who could not obtain them. George H. Stuart, Esq., Chairman, presided.

After singing the National Hymn, written by Rev. T. H. Stockton, "In the name of Jehovah, our banner we raise," prayer was offered by Rev. Richard Newton, D.D., and the Scriptures read by Rev. Joseph H. Kennard, D.D.

Rev. W. E. Boardman read an abstract from the First Annual Report.

The Chairman read communications from the Secretary of War, Bishop McIlvaine, Admiral Foote, and Colonel McKean.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., of Chicago, Rev. Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Colonel S. M. Bowman, of the Army, William E. Dodge, Esq., of New York, and Governor Pollock, of Pennsylvania.

A telegram was received and read from E. D. Jones, Esq., Chairman of the Western Army Committee, St. Louis, Missouri.

Singing was interspersed, and at a late hour the meeting was closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Morrison.

The occasion was one to cheer the heart of every patriot and Christian in the land.

This was followed by great and enthusiastic meetings in the Academy of Music, New York, Music Hall, Boston, the Hall of Representatives of the Capitol, Washington, New Haven, Harrisburg, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and many other places, awakening a wide and deep interest for the bodily and spiritual benefit of the men of our Army and Navy, and encouraging enlarged plans for its accomplishment.

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UNITED STATES

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CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

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WORK AND INCIDENTS.

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

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PHILADELPHIA, FEBRUARY, 1863.

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1864, Mar. 2.

Gift of Samuel A. Green A. B. D.

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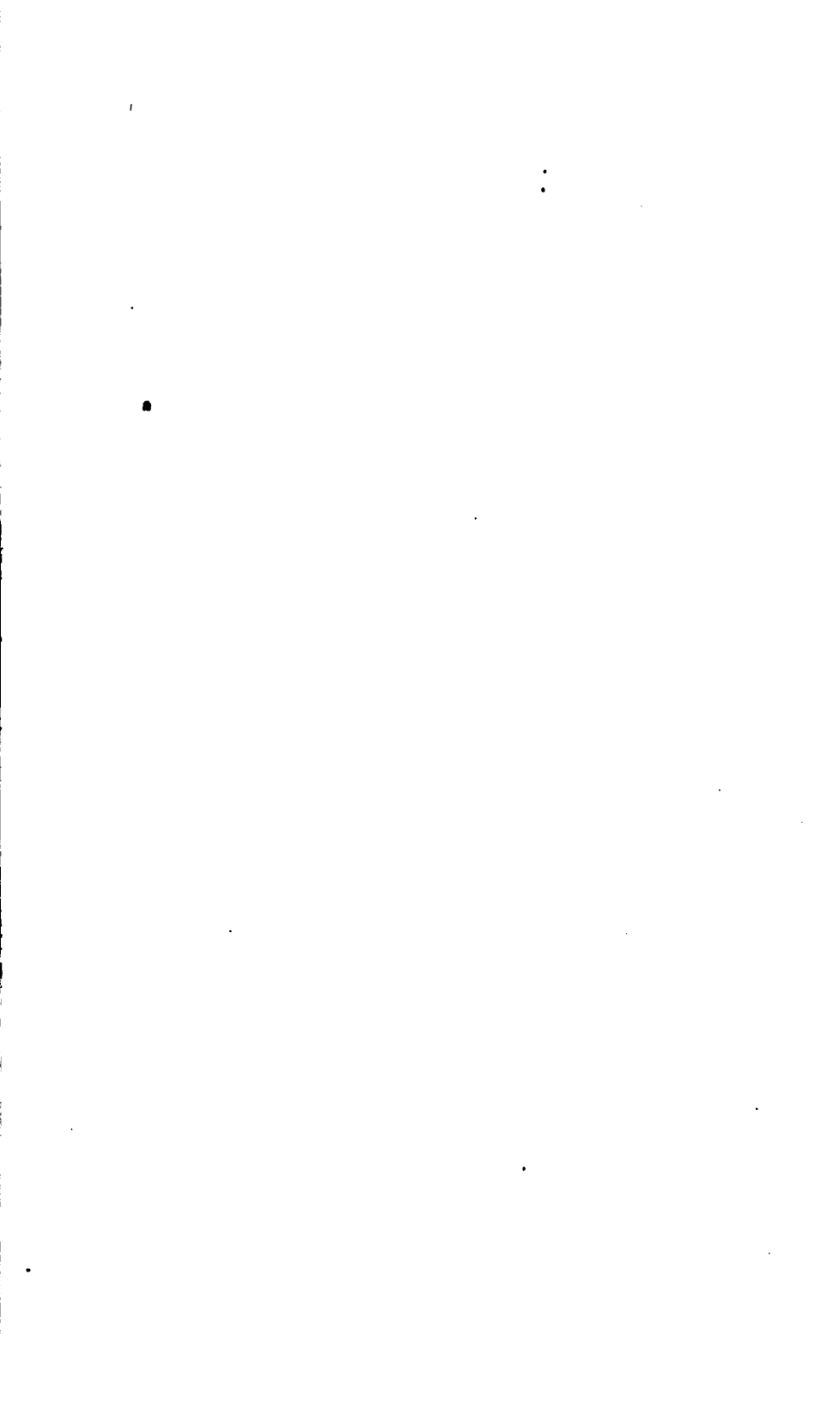
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Other committees may have been organized, but not reported to the Central Office. Many are in process of organization in different States of the Union. These are all yet reported.



# REPORT.

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

THE United States Christian Commission respectfully present their First Annual Report.

At a convention of delegates from Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the city of New York, Nov. 16th, 1861, the following persons were appointed as a United States Christian Commission:

Rev. Rollin H. Neale, D.D., Boston; Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., Philadelphia; Charles Demond, Esq., Boston; John P. Crozer, Esq., Philadelphia; Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., New York; Rev. M. L. R. P. Thompson, D.D., Cincinnati; Hon. Benj. F. Mannierre, New York; Col. Clinton B. Fisk, St. Louis; Rev. Benj. C. Cutler, D.D., Brooklyn; John V. Farwell, Esq., Chicago; Mitchell H. Miller, Esq., Washington; John D. Hill, M.D., Buffalo.

The object of the Commission was to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of the officers and men of the United States army and navy, in co-operation with chaplains and others.

Immediately after its appointment, the Commission met in Washington, and organized by choosing Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, B. F. Mannierre, Secretary and Treasurer, and Geo. H. Stuart, Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., Rev. Dr. Cutler, C. Demond, and B. F. Mannierre an Executive Committee. A plan of operations was arranged; the approbation and commendation of the President, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and General in command, secured, as will appear by their letters, and the work entered upon.

The headquarters were established at New York.

Subsequently, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were separated, and Rev. A. M. Morrison, appointed Secretary.

During the year, B. F. Mannierre and Rev. Dr. Cutler resigned, and their places were filled by the appointment of Jay Cooke, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Rev. Jas. Eells, D.D., of Brooklyn, New York, on the Commission; J. P. Crozer and Jay Cooke on the Executive Committee, and Jos. Patterson, Esq., of Philadelphia, Treasurer. The Secretary, Rev. A. M. Morrison, after having served gratuitously and efficiently several months, also resigned, and Rev. W. E. Boardman was appointed in his place, and the headquarters were changed to Philadelphia.

### DESIGN.

The design of the Commission has been to arouse the Christian Associations and the Christian men and women of the loyal States to such action towards the men in our army and navy, as would be pleasing to the Master; to obtain and direct volunteer labors, and to collect stores and money with which to supply whatever was needed, reading matter, and articles necessary for health not furnished by Government or other agencies, and to give the officers and men of our army and navy the best Christian ministries for both body and soul possible in their circumstances.

### EXTRAORDINARY FACILITIES.

To carry out this design, Christian men, ministers, merchants, lawyers, surgeons and others, have offered their services freely, in numbers ample to distribute all the stores and publications contributed, and all the Commission has had means to purchase.

Our Chairman, Geo. H. Stuart, a merchant of Philadelphia, has given the Commission office room and room for storage; the services of clerks, porters, &c., and his own time and labors, free of all charge; and we have thus been enabled to collect and distribute our stores, select, send and direct our delegates, and conduct our correspondence in the best business manner, without expense.

The Government, various Generals, and other officers in command, the Surgeon-General, Medical Directors and Surgeons in charge, have kindly aided us by passes, stores, ambulances, transportation, and opportunities of labor.

All railroads applied to, have given free passes to our delegates, and telegraph companies, free transmission of our messages.

The American Bible Society has freely given us Testaments for distribution; the Tract and Publication Societies and Boards have generously contributed publications, and the people have given stores,—not enough to save the necessity of buying many things to meet emergencies and special demands, yet very liberally.

### **ECONOMY AND DIRECTNESS OF THE WORK.**

These generous aids and valuable facilities have enabled us to do a great work at small cost, and confer untold blessings upon our brave men at little outlay of money; our stores have all gone directly to them from the hands of our own delegates, or of those known by them to be worthy of all confidence.

The money expended in arousing the people at home to co-operate with the Commission, has been very little indeed. The Christian men who have gone without pay as delegates to relieve, supply, and instruct the soldier, in hospital and camp, have just as freely told the story of their work, and of the soldier's necessities, which has served to interest the people, and secure their prayers, money, and stores better than any paid agency could possibly have done, while the Association and their rooms have served without cost, as the agency to receive stores, and forward everything without cost, and thus an economy unequalled in any great work since the days of the Apostles, has been secured, both at home and in the field, in collection and distribution.

### **PUBLIC INTEREST.**

An amazing feature in this work, is the interest it has excited wherever it has become known. Meetings under the auspices of the various Associations and Committees, have been thronged from first to last, and full of interest. Stores have come in unsought, and contributions have been liberal and cheerful.

Our Anniversary, held in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, Thursday, January 29th, and the great meetings at the Academy of Music in New York, over which Lieutenant-General Scott presided, at Music Hall, Boston, and at the Capitol, in the Hall of Representatives, Washington, were meetings such as the world has seldom known for weight of numbers and influence, and depth of power and pathos.



### WORK AND SCENES AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Steadily the labor at headquarters in Philadelphia has increased. Relief has been sought, and by division of work and systematic arrangement, found. Much that was done at first in the central office, has been turned over to the agencies at Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere, and yet the growth of this work has been so great, that the burden, instead of diminishing, has grown from day to day. Besides the constant and ever-increasing work, there come with great battles and grand emergencies, special occasions calling for almost superhuman activity, energy, endurance, and skill.

An incident or two may illustrate the stirring scenes at headquarters.

#### **Stores Gathered by Magic and sent Free by the Lightning Train.**

A large delegation had been despatched at night for Murfreesboro with trunks of stores and letters of introduction and credit addressed to our agents in Louisville and Nashville. The news of Monday morning rendered evident the necessity for another delegation with more abundant stores for immediate use, and it was resolved to send them forward if possible by the Express train. An hour and a half only remained to purchase, pack, mark, invoice, and get them to the depot, three-quarters of a mile away. Passes had also to be obtained for the delegates, and an order for the free transmission of the stores by Express train. A letter was written to the Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Railroad asking for these. Half a dozen clerks were despatched here and there to buy the stores. Porters and draymen were set to work gathering, packing, and getting off boxes and barrels to the depot. At ten minutes to eleven the messenger sent with the letter to the Vice-President of the Railroad returned, saying: "There are twenty men or more before the door, and the door is locked; it's no use trying to see him." Thirty-five minutes only remained then until the train would start. Five or six loaded drays were already on their way to the depot. The delegates were all fitted out and ready. Instantly Mr. Stuart started for the office of the Vice-President, but instead of besieging it in front with the twenty waiting applicants, he went

round through a private way into a communicating office, and said to the gentleman occupying it: "I must see Mr. Scott; I have not a moment to spare; just open the door." The door was opened. Mr. Scott seen overwhelmed with letters and work; but the passes were signed, the order was written, and written permission given for its use beyond Pittsburg to influence other roads. And Mr. Stuart was back before the clock struck eleven, and then before the twenty-five remaining minutes were gone, the stores, thirty-five boxes, &c., were piled in, all marked, numbered, and invoiced, and went on with the delegates, free too, all the way to Nashville.

**A Thanksgiving Dinner for the Men on the Heights near Harper's Ferry. How it was Despatched.**

Mrs. Dr. Harris wrote Mr. Stuart what the fare of the soldiers would be at Bolivar Heights.

For breakfast, chunks of bread, brought in on boards, and mixtures called tea, served in tincups, in which they had cooked for months. For dinner, on the same board, is bread and half-boiled beef, and a mixture of grease and water called soup, served in the same tin-cups.

Mrs. Harris was in Philadelphia to recruit. Thanksgiving was at hand. She knew that our brave soldiers would have a cheerless Thanksgiving of it on the Heights, with nothing but these dry rations. She wrote Mr. Stuart, describing it, and asking for apples to cook for them, and some other things to give a pleasant variety. Roast turkeys and mince pies were not thought of.

Owing to the press of business at the office, Mrs. Harris's letter remained unread until the time for procuring and sending forward the necessary things for the dinner was too far gone to have done it for any other than such an occasion. Mrs. Harris, however, was ready to go with the supplies, push them through, and have the dinner prepared and served. Presuming upon the disposition of the railroad authorities to do extraordinary things for the soldiers, and for Mrs. Harris and the Christian Commission, the articles were procured with the greatest despatch, and hurried down to the railroad depot, to go on by the express passenger train. The railroad authorities consented to take them, and put them aboard as speedily as possible. Notwithstanding the extra-

ordinary exertions of all parties, the supplies could not be hurried into the cars in time, but the train was delayed until they were all in, and so they went forward from Philadelphia. All honor to the gentlemen of the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad Company.

From Baltimore, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company sent Mrs. Harris and her supplies for the dinner forward in a special car detailed for the purpose,—the same car they had detailed for the President, when he visited the Army of the Potomac, after the battle of Antietam.

And so she reached Harper's Ferry, and so the dinner was there, and served to the happy soldiers, filling their hearts with gladness and thanksgiving.

It is worthy of note too, that the special car was run off upon a side track at Harper's Ferry, and left there, to be the home and storehouse of Mrs. Harris for weeks, while she pursued her noble work for the soldiers.

### Telegraph Scenes.

After a battle, there are many thrilling scenes at our headquarters. Fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and friends gather to inquire for loved ones on the battle-field; the name of the soldier and his company are taken, entered in a book with the name and address of the inquirer; the message flashes across the wire (our messages go free) to the delegate, and soon, it may be, an answer of joy or sadness, is sent to the anxious heart.

After the battle of Murfreesboro, Mr. Stuart received a letter from a lady in New York State, saying she was a widow of a Presbyterian clergyman. Her only son was in the battle; she wished to send to him what money she could spare, and inclosed \$2.50. At once the order went to the delegate to find the only son of a widow, and give him the savings of his beloved mother.

Thus we bring the home very near to the battle-field.

One Sabbath day several despatches from the battle-fields of Maryland (so urgent were the occasions), were received in church and answered.

### GENERAL DIVISIONS OF LABOR.

The Commission has had two general divisions of labor, the one at a distance from, and the other at the seat of war.

The work in camps and hospitals at a distance from the scenes of conflict, has been under the charge of Young Men's Christian Associations, in such places as have loyal associations in them willing to undertake it, and of Army Committees formed for the purpose in other places.

The work at the seat of war has been done by the Commission, aided by the Associations and Committees near the scenes of conflict.

The various Associations and the Committees at a distance from the seat of war, have done a great and noble work in supplying the men who were in hospitals and camps near them, and those passing on to the war, with religious reading matter and various needed stores, relieving and counselling the sick and wounded, holding meetings amongst them, and gathering stores and money for the Commission.

Reports of this work, as far as we have been able to gather the facts, will be given hereafter.

First, however, we submit a brief and partial exhibit of the

### WORK OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

This has been of two classes, *special* and *general*.

The relief and care of the wounded, during and immediately after battle; and meeting the wants of men in such places as parole and convalescent camps, and other emergencies, may be called "Special Work."

Whilst the supply of religious service in aid of chaplains, or in their place, for hospitals and regiments without chaplains, the supply of reading matter to men in hospitals and throughout the army, the distribution of bodily comforts, and the promotion of intercourse with home, may be called "General Work."

Both classes of work, however, are done mainly by voluntary delegates, with aid and counsel from the Committees near the seat of war.

Delegates are fitted out at our headquarters, in Philadelphia, each with his commission with railroad passes indorsed on it, his memorandum-book to take notes in and instructions to guide him, his haversack, stored with food for body and soul to those needing it, his blanket and strap, to be his bed at night, in a strait, and if going to the battle-field, his bucket and cup, and lantern and candle, to enable him to give drink to the famishing, by night as well as by day.

Supplies of stores and publications are sent forward for them to the rooms of our committees or agents nearest the field of their work; and for the battle-field, a trunk for each company of three, five, or six delegates, as the case may be, packed with choicest and best articles, for instant use for the suffering on the field, is taken with them as personal baggage, to make sure that they have them the moment they get there.

They are divided into companies, and each company has its captain appointed, and they are each supplied with a metallic badge neatly engraven,—



to be pinned upon the breast of his coat, and worn to distinguish him in any company.

And in some unexpected emergencies whole car-loads of special stores have been bought and gathered in an incredibly short space of time by the magic of an energy that removes all obstacles, and sent forward free with the Express trains to reach the field as quick as steam could take them. Forewarned of a coming battle, stores are sent in advance. These trunks are kept on hand ready packed, and stores are kept packed in preparation for a battle whenever it may occur, in boxes and barrels, marked "Stores for the next battle." And when forewarned of a battle approaching, they are sent to the most convenient place in the vicinity of it.

Our delegates are instructed to report themselves in all possible cases to the proper authorities, whether officers, surgeons, or chap-

lains, as the proposed work may require, for instruction and direction, and in every case to respect the established regulations.

Three hundred and fifty-six delegates have been sent, and three thousand six hundred and ninety-one boxes, &c., of stores and publications have been distributed by them in person.

These delegates have aided in the relief of many thousands of the wounded on the field, and in their removal to comfortable hospitals. They have washed and dressed them, taken off their bloody, filthy garments, and put on those that were clean and comfortable; cooked and given them food; prepared and given them drink by the way. They have prayerfully pointed the dying to Jesus, and when dead given them Christian burial; in some instances digging the grave with their own hands. They have written and mailed letters for them to their friends, have met their yearnings for sympathy, attended to dying requests, and in many other ways comforted, instructed, cheered, and benefited them.

They have preached the Gospel in camps and hospitals, from man to man, tent to tent, to little groups and vast assemblies, in temporary chapels and under the broad canopy of the heavens, and afforded Christian ministries in all the many forms needed by our brave men.

#### **The Work of the Commission for All.**

Men of all sections of our country, and of all regiments of our army, have been alike and impartially cared for by our delegates. They do not ask what State a suffering soldier is from, or what regiment he belongs to, before giving him relief, but first pour in the oil and wine into his wounds, and get him to the hospital, where his wants will be attended to, and then ask him all about himself, so as to inform his friends at home; or if he has lost his descriptive list, write for it for him.

Even the wounded of the enemy, falling into our hands, are not "passed by on the other side." In many instances kindness to them has opened their hearts, and induced free expression of penitence as well as gratitude.

They have visited nearly all the battle-fields of the war with their blessed ministrations, and labored in nearly all the camps and hospitals of the whole army.



Stores and publications, amounting in value to one hundred and forty-two thousand one hundred and fifty dollars, have been distributed to soldiers in hospitals and camps.

They have given personally to our brave men, one hundred and two thousand five hundred and sixty Bibles and Testaments, one hundred and fifteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven books, large and small, thirty-four thousand six hundred and fifty-three magazines and pamphlets, religious and secular, one hundred and thirty thousand six hundred and ninety-seven Soldiers' and Sailors' hymn and psalm books, three hundred thousand temperance documents, and ten million nine hundred and fifty-three thousand seven hundred and six pages of tracts.

Aid has also been given in the formation of libraries, and in securing newspapers and the larger periodicals for reading-rooms in some of the United States General Hospitals.

A connected history, embracing all the details of this work, with its many thrilling scenes and incidents, would swell our report to a mammoth volume. All we can attempt is a few brief sketches of campaigns, battle-fields, and camps, with a few specimen incidents as illustrations of the whole work.

### **THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, OR PITTSBURG LANDING,**

Called out a large number of delegates from the Chicago Association. With their stores, they travelled sever or eight hundred miles, to reach and relieve our noble sufferers.

Large numbers of the wounded were taken to St. Louis, and there came under the influence of the Western Army Committee and their excellent helpers.

### **THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN**

Was the first to call forth good men in any great numbers to go as delegates of the Commission, and the first to induce the public to send stores in freely for our delegates to distribute. Many men of high standing and great worth offered themselves, and were commissioned and sent. Their labors were abundant, and the good done was immeasurable. By their unwearied labors and self-forgotful exposures and hardships, some of them were prostrated, and driven to return, long enough to recruit strength; in most instances, however, only to go again and again.

The sick and wounded soldiers suffering for help, the eager desire of the well and the ill to receive religious counsel, and the scenes of thrilling interest incident to their work, haunted them when away, and constrained them to go back, and nerved them then to work beyond their powers of endurance.

### A Martyr to the Work.

Rev. F. D. Ladd, pastor of the North Penn Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, overworked himself, and induced an attack of fever, terminating in his death. At home, he was abundant in labor. His sympathies for sufferers and for sinners were large, generous, and warm; his affections, deep and strong. Our country had no truer patriot amongst its sons. The work of the Commission took such deep hold of his noble nature, as to lead him on, irresistibly and insensibly, until he was completely overborne, and fell a martyr to his love of Christ, our country, and our brave men of the army. He was buried from his own church, amidst the tears of his people, and of a great concourse of ministers and citizens.

In all, there were forty-six delegates sent to the Peninsula, and some of them have never left the work of the Commission. They visited the hospitals called "Hygeia," at Fortress Monroe, "Mill Creek," "The Seminary," "Harrison House," and the various field hospitals at White House, Savage's Station, and the field hospitals and hospitals in the houses appropriated to hospital purposes before Richmond, and aided in the care of the wounded of the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, and the seven days before Richmond; they ministered to thousands prostrated by sickness, exposure and hardships at Yorktown, and in the Chickahominy swamps; attended to the sick and wounded on their way to hospitals at Philadelphia and elsewhere, on board steamboats; distributed religious reading matter; held meetings; wrote letters for the soldiers, and pointed many souls to Jesus.

### Lives Saved.

Rev. Mr. Bringhurst, an Episcopal clergyman of Philadelphia, writing from Yorktown, says:

"The soldiers declare, that had it not been for the aid of the deputation of the Commission, many more of them must have died;" and he adds, "Send on good working men—men who can

attend to the body as well as the soul; men who are willing to work as well as to preach."

That Mr. Bringhurst himself could preach as well as work, and care for the soul as well as the body, is evinced by the following incident, selected from many related by him:

#### One of the "Lost Children" Found.

After a prayer-meeting at Yorktown, in the month of July, as I was returning to my quarters, my attention was arrested by footsteps behind me. Turning, I met the gaze of a young soldier belonging to a regiment called the "Lost Children." "O, sir," said he, "won't you please tell me how I can be a Christian? I was at prayer-meeting to-night, and felt as though I could talk with you." "What made you think of being a Christian?" I asked. "Why, sir, when I was on guard I was thinking of a beautiful hymn I had read in my Soldier's Hymn-book, beginning, 'Rock of ages, cleft for me,' and I wondered if I could not be built upon that rock." "Certainly you can," I replied; "shall we pray together?" Then on the dusty roadside, beneath the stars, a prayer went up to God which sent the weary soldier-boy to his duties with a light and happy heart. I afterwards fell in with him, and found him resting on the "Rock."

#### The Soldier's Blessing

Comes upon the donors at home, the delegates in the work, and the Christian Commission, from thousands of grateful hearts. Often and often the tender and earnest "God bless you and them that send you!" or, "God bless you and the good people at home!" or, "God bless you and the Christian Commission!" falls upon the ears of our delegates from the soldier when they have relieved bodily suffering; and when they have been the means of leading them to Jesus, their gratitude has been still deeper and more abiding.

The following *Letter from a Soldier*, received by Rev. George J. Mingins after he had returned from the Peninsula, is an evidence of this:

"YORKTOWN, June 25th, 1862.

"It is with pleasure I now sit down to express such praise as my language will admit in admiration of one who, although a

stranger, has impressed my mind with a sense of religion. . . . I resolved to stand up for Jesus, to acknowledge my sins before the world and God. So the other evening I went to church, and amidst my comrades stood up, told them I was a sinner, and asked them to pray for me. This was granted in full earnest, and, sir, I am in hopes their prayers were heard. What I want to speak of most is this: we want the prayers of those at home. How easy, sir, it would be for your congregation to meet and pray God to assist us. I know He will hear your prayers."

This man was known afterwards as leading a godly and consistent life.

From Yorktown, Mr. Mingins himself, by letter, gave a very touching instance of grateful expression from a soldier. He says:

"As we entered a tent, we were much struck with the appearance of a man evidently fast passing away. He was fine-looking, dark hair, full intellectual face, lustrous eyes. He had no bed, but straw on the bare ground. His blanket was filthy; his under-clothing full of vermin. We washed him; changed him; made a cot for him; placed him on it; gave him nourishing food; spoke to him of home, of mother, of Jesus. Slowly turning, he took my hand, drew it to his face, tried to thank me—could not. What then? Tears fell upon the hand he held. His gratitude was made more manifest than words could tell."

This incident illustrates the

### **Eleventh Hour Opportunities**

of our delegates for leading men to Jesus. No other field affords so many or those so favorable.

The good seed sown in the Sunday-school, the church, the home, after long lying dormant, is suddenly caused to germinate, grow, and ripen by the certainty of death near at hand. Then comes the delegate with his counsels, pointing the way of life.

Rev. J. O. Sloane, in the voluminous report of his abundant labors on the Peninsula, gives many instances of this kind. Amongst others, Sergeant L——, of Company E, Michigan 2d. He was shot through the lungs, and almost gone. He was not able to say much, but as death approached he was led to lean

upon Jesus. In a second interview he requested Mr. Sloane to read the twelfth chapter of Hebrews. His words were scarcely audible and very few, but plainly showed that he was applying the truth to himself; that his own sufferings, hard as they were to bear, were yet for his profit; that he might partake of the holiness and joy of the Savior. Next morning he passed peacefully away.

Another instance is that of Andrew B——, Company I, 1st Massachusetts. He had been well taught as to the way of salvation, and had no hope of recovery. He spoke tenderly of his mother and of his wife and child. He felt anxious that his child should be trained up for God. He was counselled by Mr. Sloane to cast his care for himself and his loved ones upon the Lord Jesus, and leave all with Him. A second visit in the night was made to him. He calmly expressed his firm trust in the Savior. When Mr. Sloane rose to leave, the dying soldier said: "Now you will not see me in the morning; I shall be gone. Offer one more prayer with me. Ask God to give me strong faith for the dark valley." The prayer was offered, and he said: "There, now you may go. I hope to meet you in heaven." In the morning he was gone.

#### **Comfort afforded by Delegates to Wounded and Dying Men.**

(Rev. Mr. Corey's Report, p. 4, July 24th, 1862.)

I assisted in taking one young man on board one of the hospital steamers. He was scarcely nineteen years. I saw that he was dying, and watched to see him breathe his last. As I bathed his hands, reaching up his arms, he threw them around my neck and drew my face down to his. I could only learn that his name was Watkins. Amid the din I heard him murmur something about "drill." Poor fellow, his drilling was over. In the dead-house next morning I recognized him, his eyes unclosed, form stiffened in death.

#### **Home in the Heart of our Soldiers. Christian Burial to the Soldier.**

A fine-looking youth was brought in from his regiment to the general hospital, ill only three or four days. He had a likeness

of his sister and of his dead mother suspended from his neck in a beautiful golden locket. All through the night he exclaimed in his delirium, "I have a sister on my heart; I have a sister on my heart." Next afternoon we buried him beneath the overhanging branches of a tree. Two or three contrabands and three or four others were there. There were sobs and tears from strangers over his humble grave. O, it is impossible to describe one's feelings when burying our braves. One thinks of the loved ones far away all unconscious of their great loss.

He writes from Pamunkey River: "Opportunities to relieve suffering and to reach the heart with the truths of salvation, which in ordinary circumstances are spread over many years, if they are found at all, are here to be found in days or hours. They are so grateful for things which are scarcely valued at home, and with what solemnity and earnestness, often with eyes overflowing with tears, they listen to the word of life, and unite in praise or prayer! I know of no other expenditure of means or men which promises so much good."

#### **Wisdom of relieving Bodily Sufferings before giving Spiritual Instruction Illustrated.**

Christian sympathy seeks to benefit men soul and body. When a man is starving, Christianity offers him bread first, not a Baxter's Call; and if famishing with thirst, it gives him the cup of cold water, in the name of a disciple, not a Testament; and the Christian Commission sends its delegates and fills their hands with stores, that they may first give food and drink to the suffering, and wash and dress their wounds, and put clean, comfortable clothing upon them; and then, as disciples, tell them of Jesus, in whose name it is done, and lead them to Him for salvation.

The wisdom of this, is illustrated by an instance in which the mistake was made,—

#### **A Mistake not made a second time,—**

Of giving religious instruction before bodily relief.

Mr. Jones describes the garret of the old Harrison mansion, at Harrison's Landing, with its eighty-five men stowed away under the scorching roof. He says, their boots were so hardened by the intense heat, that they had to cut them off with a knife, in



order to bathe their feet. The attendants refused to work there. The delegates undertook to do what they could. They prepared buckets of cool, nice lemonade, and took them up on the stairs leading to the garret; the stairs were so narrow that only one at a time could ascend. Leaving the lemonade out of sight on the stairs, Rev. Mr. S. proposed a short religious service, read some of the comforting words of Jesus, from the Gospel by St. John, and talked very tenderly of home, of heaven, and of the Savior. Good was done, no doubt; but not so much as if the lemonade had come first. After the service, they passed around their buckets and cups, and more than one said to Mr. Jones, "Ah! Doctor! Doctor! this is better than talk!" and to Mr. S. others said, "Pardon me, sir; your talk was excellent, but this cooling drink is the best now."

#### **A Brother's Burial.**

Many a sad necessity like that revealed by the touching incident which follows, has been altogether saved or greatly relieved of its lonely sadness, by our delegates. A lad not quite sixteen, asked by Mr. Sloane whether he had any brothers in the army, answered, "I had one, but he was killed at Williamsburg; he fell at my side. I found him after the battle dying; all he could say was, 'Try and get a box to bury me in.' I could not find one, but got three cracker-boxes, took the ends out, placed them end to end, and put his body into them; then with my bayonet and my hands, I hollowed out a place, not very deep, though I worked hours at it, and there I laid him, with no one to help me, and there his body is now." Mr. Sloane writes of burying between fifteen and twenty from one hospital, and more than fifty from another.

**Desire for Meetings. Tents fitted up by the Soldiers for them.**

Rev. Anthony Simpson writes from Fortress Monroe, Sept. 16th, 1862:

"A little while ago I left an exceedingly blessed and solemn prayer-meeting, held in a hospital tent. We hold them daily. We doubted at first, but they have been a glorious success. The soldiers seem to enjoy them. Without saying anything about it,

they fitted up two large vacant hospital tents for the purpose. They placed them end to end, and being square, the two make a respectable chapel tent. Our meeting this evening was there."

### Hard Work.

Men do not volunteer as delegates of the Commission because the work is easy, and a pleasant recreation. Never was there a service requiring or exciting more self-denying and ceaseless toil. Many things done by them cheerfully, for the love they bear to the soldier, the Master, and the country, money could not have hired them to do.

Rev. Mr. Sloane writes from Yorktown, saying: "Those who have labored in this noble cause, have found that far more is to be done than talking, distributing publications, and praying. They have had to nurse, dress wounds, strip off filthy garments, wash the blood and dust of hard fights and hard marches off from helpless soldiers; cleanse them of vermin, and put upon them clean and comfortable clothing; dig graves for the dead, lift and open boxes, make wearisome visits on foot, sleep on the ground, or floor, or bags, or boxes, and often work from daylight until midnight, or all night long, with little to eat except dry bread or crackers, and meat without cooking."

And, closing his report of the Peninsular service for the Christian Commission, Mr. Sloane, speaking for the delegation generally, says: "We found many sinking with fever and other diseases, unable to help themselves, with few to help them, in a most wretched condition; clothes not changed, or face and hands not washed for weeks. We spent days, basin, soap and towel in hand, going from man to man to wash them and change their clothes.

"Others with us, were engaged in like manner. Mrs. Dr. Harris, of Philadelphia, so widely known for her good works; Mrs. S., from Maine, and Judge Clark, of Michigan.

"And in all this work, everywhere, we distributed our stores with our own hands, directly to the soldiers; gave them religious reading matter, and had precious opportunities to whisper in their ears words of salvation, and breathe prayers for God's blessing, and guide the dying to Jesus, and often to address the groups, larger or smaller, as we found them collected together."

### POPE'S BATTLES BEFORE WASHINGTON.

Leaving the Peninsula with the Army of the Potomac, Rev. W. H. Corey, of New Hampshire, one of our delegates, hastened up to Warrenton, where he met the wounded from the battle of Cedar Mountain, and rendered signal service to them.

Besides all other kind and Christian offices for them, he saved four car-loads from the hands of the enemy. With such assistance as some of the wounded themselves could render him, he rolled the four cars with their living freight of mangled men, three or four miles, to a point where locomotives could take them. In doing this, he wore his shoes off entirely, and came into Fairfax Court House barefoot, then down to Fairfax Station, where he was ready for the further work thrown upon our men by the later battles.

As another illustration of the self-sacrificing spirit of the men who have so freely given time and toil to this Christ-like service, it ought not to go untold, that Mr. Corey worked on until, when he returned to his church and home, in New Hampshire, he almost died from the effects of it.

### The Second Bull Run Battle,

With the famous despatches of General Pope, electrified the whole country, and the Commission sent forward a delegation of twenty-two men to aid in the relief and removal of the wounded.

The ways to the battle-fields, both by the wagon-road from Washington to Manassas, and by the railroad through Alexandria, were so overcrowded and choked up, and the difficulties of getting to the field so great, that but for the efficient aid of the gentlemanly master of transportation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Mr. Smith, and General Haupt, the Military Director of the Railroad, the delegation would have failed entirely to get to the scenes of carnage. As it was, about half of them remained at Washington and Alexandria to assist in giving food and drink to the sufferers as they came, train after train, by the cars, and in removing them from the cars to the hospitals. The others pressed on, and were the first on the field.

### **The Scene at Fairfax Station,**

Where the wounded were brought from the battle-field, as it met the eyes of the delegates on their arrival, was strange and heart-rending. Acres of mangled men were there lying on the ground. Many of them had neither had food or drink for twenty-four or some even forty-eight hours, and besides the agony of their wounds they were almost dead of hunger and thirst.

We did not then understand how to fit out our men as we do now. They had no lanterns, and had to make a candlestick of one hand, whilst with the other they served the men. They had taken no buckets or cups from home, and could find in Washington only some butter-tubs with bales, instead of buckets. These, however, were immensely useful, and helped, no doubt, to save many lives. A contraband was charged with the business of making coffee in a large camp-kettle, and as fast as it was made the delegates filled their buckets, and, candle in hand, went from group to group and man to man, giving coffee to the poor sufferers, who were crying out: "Give me some coffee; I have had none for a whole day," or for two days, as the case might be. And whenever the coffee-kettle failed them, the delegates laid a poor reluctant spring near by under tribute for water not over clear, and gave that instead.

Before morning, all had been served at least with the cup of cold water and with a soft cracker, if no more; and about seven hundred had been helped aboard the cars, the helpless carefully carried and laid in on hay spread on the floor; those who could walk were arranged on top.

With the morning, Dr. Rauch, Medical Director of Pope's army, came from another field, and Rev. Mr. Boardman, who was in charge of the delegation, reported to him. Dr. Rauch received the party with great gladness, and greatly increased their means of relieving the wounded.

### **A Miracle of Camp Cooking**

Was wrought by Dr. Vanderkief, who had charge of that department under Dr. Rauch. An incredibly short space of time availed him to have nice soup, good coffee, bread and beef ready and served to seven thousand men, wounded and well. A whole

row of camp-kettles for coffee, and another for soup, with contrabands to run them, supplied the delegates and others as fast as they could make distribution, until the whole multitude was satisfied. The jams and jellies and lemons of the Commission also were made up with sugar and water into a delicious, healthy, and nutritious beverage, and given to every man as he was brought in from Bull Run.

Whilst this was going on, the roar of cannon broke upon them, announcing the battle of Fairfax Court House. A night of alarms and toil, without sleep, ended, morning brought the wounded of the evening's battle, followed by our own retreating forces; and by the afternoon we had aided in removing the last of the sufferers onward to Alexandria and Washington, thirty-five hundred in all. Just in time, for as the last of them left, the torch was applied to the forage yet unmoved, and an hour afterwards the enemy were on the ground, but our brave martyrs were all safe.

### MARYLAND INVASION.

Immediately after the battle of South Mountain, several of our delegates left Washington with four ambulances loaded with stores and medicines, and arrived at Middletown, Boonsboro', and Antietam in advance of any other stores, and were enabled to afford most essential aid to the surgeons and wounded heroes, at a time when the destitution was almost entire, and the calls for aid overwhelming. At the same time, delegates were sent from Philadelphia and Baltimore, by way of Frederick, and a day or two after, more from Philadelphia, by way of Hagerstown, until there were over seventy Christian men at work upon these battle-fields, and among the hospitals.

Some of them were at the Stone Bridge, near Gen. McClellan's headquarters, and worked all day during the battle of Antietam, under the observation of the commander, the shells often passing over the place, far beyond them, and others were in all the field hospitals during that terrible day, doing whatever good sense, sympathy, and Christian love could suggest; dressing wounds; giving nourishment and stimulants to sustain the men till the surgeons could attend them; bathing them, taking their last messages and tokens of love, and praying by the dying, and

pointing to Jesus. Their exertions and labors were commended by Gen. McClellan himself on the field, and by the surgeons who welcomed their aid. •

After the battles, they sought out the wounded, aided in bringing them in, and in many cases, buried the dead with their own hands.

A large number of them remained till the wounded were all cared for, and those able to endure it were removed to the hospitals in other places.

Some of them paid particular attention to the Corn Exchange Regiment, of Philadelphia, and were the means of great comfort to friends, by finding the bodies of the dead, and bringing home some mementoes from them; one delegate returning with articles thus taken from the bodies of loved ones. The Corn Exchange gave votes of thanks for these services, and a generous contribution to the Commission.

The wounded at Frederick were also materially aided and comforted by some of these delegates, who found great need of their stores and services in that city of hospitals.

In the confusion caused by this invasion, and the great demand for transportation, it was difficult to forward our stores from Frederick. In this we were most efficiently aided by Mr. Gideon Bantz of that city, who acted as our agent, received and transmitted our stores, overcoming all obstacles in his zeal for the cause, and in every way in his power giving facilities to our delegates.

After the battles, all those who were wounded so severely as to be unable to bear removal to a distance were gathered together at Smoketown, and one of our delegates, who has been in our service ever since May last, and who is eminently qualified by nature and grace for the work, Rev. Mr. Sloane, remained with them for three months, doing a great work in consoling the wounded and in leading them to the great Physician. When he left, the surgeon in charge, a devout Catholic, gave him a letter, which is below. Soon after he received a letter from the surgeon and from one of the soldiers, calling him back; extracts from which we give. Mr. Sloane returned, and is now there, reaping the fruits of his long and self-denying labors.

### **Temporal Relief and Comfort. Opening the Way for Spiritual Instruction.**

Rev. Mr. Torrence says: "After the battle of South Mountain, I found over thirty in barns, sheds, &c., without any comfort, medicine, or clothing, or any attention except such as was given by a few of their comrades, in one barn nine rebels and three Union men lying on the floor.

"After doing all we could, we read the fourteenth chapter of John and talked ten minutes, prayed; and then to hear the poor fellows pray, who before had been ashamed to pray, was very touching. Once led in the way, they continued of their own accord, and we left them comfortable and comforted by the Comforter, proved to those who ask for Him."

### **The Faith of an Unbeliever.**

Rev. G. J. Mingins says: "One day we were burying some poor fellows who had fallen in the battle of Antietam, and a soldier was helping us. He told us how he had passed through the fierce conflict unharmed; 'for which,' said he, 'I thank God.' 'Thank the rebels for being such bad marksmen,' said a man near us. The soldier, looking him in the face, said: 'I ain't no Christian, God knows. After what we passed through I ought to be a better man. You may think as you like; I think God saved me, not the rebels' bad shooting.' Here was ground to work upon."

### **Soldiers' Gratitude.**

One day when visiting the field hospitals of Antietam, we met a drummer-boy who was suffering from dysentery. Bravely had the little fellow passed through the wars with McClellan. Disease had seized upon his tender frame, and he was weak and sick and sad. He was from Massachusetts; had followed his father to the wars. His father had fallen, and he was alone. We took him to our ambulance, gave him some blackberry cordial, which had been sent from his native State through the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston. We told him this. Looking up in our face, while the tears streamed down his own, he said: "Maybe, sir, mother made this; she was always good. Anyhow, God bless you and them who sent it. Good-by, sir." From the general to the drummer-boy all appreciate the good accomplished by the Commission.

## Songs in the Night.

Rev. Mr. Beatty of Philadelphia says: "After laboring all day among the wounded at Antietam amid the roar of cannon, with shells above and around us, about eleven o'clock at night I lay down on the ground, completely exhausted, in the midst of acres of wounded, to get some rest. I had just fallen asleep when I was aroused by the request to visit a dying soldier who desired to see me. I went, and found him lying in a wagon, evidently near his end, and desiring to know the way to Christ. As briefly as I could I spoke of Jesus, his death, his love, and then raised my voice in prayer. As soon as the sound of prayer went out upon the night air over those thousands of wounded men, every moan and groan was hushed, and amidst the most profound and solemn silence I prayed for that soul soon to meet the Judge, and for all who were near us. After prayer a lady sang most sweetly the words:

"In the Christian's home of glory,  
There remains a land of rest,  
There my Savior's gone before me,  
To fulfil my soul's request.

## CHORUS.

There is a rest for the weary,  
There is a rest for the weary,  
There is a rest for the weary,  
There is a rest for you,  
On the other side of Jordan,  
In the sweet fields of Eden,  
Where the tree of life is blooming,  
There is rest for you."

And then Mrs. Harris stooped down and kissed him. We left him, and early in the morning, as we visited him, we found a kind friend just closing his eyes, his spirit having gone,—may we not hope to forever behold the Savior whom he so desired to know."

An incident showing the *connection between home and this work*, is worthy of mention.

A delegation was about to leave Philadelphia for Antietam, and Mr. P. B. Simmons commended the members to God in prayer, and asked that they might be blessed in their labors and made a comfort to the soldiers and their friends. He had a son in the army, but did not then know he was hurt. The delegates went, and one of them on the battle-field found the body of Mr. Simmons's son, and had it tenderly cared for and sent home to



the mourning father. Thus God answered his prayer in a way he had not thought of.

### **Piteous Appeal.**

W. A. Duff, Esq., of Philadelphia, writes: "The writer, with some three or four others, found in a stable and barnyard some fifteen dead and wounded lying together. Those who were yet alive, begged in the most piteous tones that we would have their wounds examined and dressed, and remove them to less exposed quarters. This was attended to as soon as possible, the delegates aiding personally in the burial of the dead and in relieving the wants of the living, and finally removing them to a place where they would be regularly cared for."

### **A Surgeon's Thanks.**

HEADQUARTERS 118th Regt. P. V.

SHARPSBURG, Sept. 22d, 1862.

GEO. H. STUART,

Chairman Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I take great pleasure in thanking you in behalf of the 118th Regiment P. V., for the very kind and opportune assistance the Christian Commission rendered us in the sad calamity which befell our regiment in the engagement with the enemy on the 20th inst., and most especially, in the person of Dr. C. A. Kingsbury, who was untiring in his labors, engaged night and day in operating, dressing wounds, and aiding the afflicted in a thousand ways. His presence here was most opportune and fortunate for us. Mr. Cummings, and in fact every one connected with the Commission, aided us very materially in every instance where they could make themselves useful. I deem this acknowledgment due to Dr. Kingsbury from me, for no one else can fully appreciate the amount of service rendered us.

Very respectfully,

JOSEPH THOMAS,

Surgeon 118th Regt. P. V.

P.S. Col. C. M. Prevost, to whom I have just shown the above acknowledgment, joins most heartily in the indorsement of it, and he would have written also, if he had been able to do so.

JOSEPH THOMAS,

Surgeon.

GEO. H. STUART.

### **Another Surgeon's Testimony.**

GENERAL HOSPITAL, SMOKETOWN, MD.,  
November 15th, 1862.

It gives me much pleasure to testify to the eminently Christian service of the Rev. Dr. Sloane, at this hospital since the battle of Antietam. He has volunteered his services here, and his kindness and self-sacrifice, in ministering to our sick and wounded soldiers, are beyond all praise.

He has been assiduous in procuring and distributing supplies from charitable associations, thereby greatly contributing to the comfort of our patients. As a gentleman and as a Christian minister, Mr. Sloane has won golden opinions from all with whom he has associated.

F. VANDERKEIFT,  
Surgeon in charge.

### **Public Services aid Private Efforts.**

Mr. Sloane says: "At Smoketown and Hoffman's farm, where I gave my services as chaplain for three months, I found great good resulting from holding services in the tents, consisting of singing, reading the Scriptures, remarks and prayer, and sometimes only a few remarks and prayer. By this means, an interest in religious things was kept up in all the wards, and men were more easily approached personally on the great question of the soul's salvation. These meetings were generally in the evening."

### **Soldiers eager for the Gospel.**

Mr. Sloane says: "In the main part of the barn on the Hoffman farm, were about two hundred wounded. I went up one evening after supper, and proposed holding religious services. A general expression of satisfaction and joy was heard in every part of the building. I held the meeting. All was quiet. Before, groans and complaints filled the place; now silence reigned, that each one might hear of Christ and His salvation. At the conclusion, many said, 'Come again; be sure and come every evening; that's what we want now.' After this I held a service every evening, and have reason to believe that, by the blessing of God, some were led to Christ.

"As we were bidding them good-night after service one evening, some one called to me. I went and sat down by the young man who called me. As I took his hand, he said, 'I want you to sit down by my side and talk to me of God, and being saved. Since I was brought to this barn, I have thought over how my mother used to take me and my brother and sister, and talk of those things and pray with us, and now I have determined to seek God, to be a soldier of the Cross.' I sat down on the straw by his side, saying to a soldier next to him about the same age, 'And will not you, William, make this good resolve too?' 'I will,' said he; 'I want to be a Christian; show me the way.'

"I endeavored to open the way of life to them. They seemed to seek the pearl of great price earnestly, and I trust, found it. One, after great suffering, died in peace; the other recovered, his leg having been amputated, and the day before leaving the hospital for home, told us that his life should be spent in God's service; he saw His goodness, and all his life he hoped to praise and bless His holy name.

#### **Hymn-books are Aids.**

"At the hospitals in Smoketown I supplied nearly every one, patients and nurses, with the Soldier's Hymn-book. Singing might be heard almost every evening in most of the wards; and our meetings on the Sabbath, and in the tents with the wounded during the week, the good singing made it doubly interesting. The distribution of these Hymn-books had a good effect upon the general spirits of the men; and in many cases led to serious thoughts, which resulted in conversion."

#### **Kindness and Care open the Heart.**

Mr. Sloane says: "Henry C——, of the 19th Massachusetts regiment, was brought to Hoffman's barn, wounded badly in the thigh, and having lost the use of his arms. He was about twenty years old, an only child, tenderly nurtured. I gave particular attention to him in his helplessness, fearing he might be neglected; talking with him, and giving him needed articles and books. He was very patient, and never complained, though his wound was very painful. From the first he was anxious about his soul, and desired me to remember him in my prayers. The

first intimation I had that he had obtained a hope, was an expression of joy and praise at the close of our usual evening prayer. He called Mr. R——, of Boston, and me, to his side, and expressed his confidence in God, and his desire to submit to his will, and seemed happy. Ever after that he appeared cheerful, and said he felt no fear of death. He believed Jesus was able and willing to save him. He loved the voice of prayer; and if I was delayed by any press of business beyond the usual time of evening worship, he would send his nurse to ask me to come,—sending once after eleven o'clock at night.

“The nurse was led to reflection by being sent at such an hour, on such an errand; and on this night I found him outside of the barn, weeping bitterly. He came up to me, and said: ‘I never had such feelings in my life. It seems as if all my wicked life and bad acts have come up before me.’ I found he had been a member of the Baptist Church at home, but in the army had wandered far away. The message of Henry had brought him to consider his ways, and to resolve to go back to his Father’s house.

“When it became evident Henry could not live, I told him, as kindly as I could, that we felt he could not recover. He calmly said: ‘I am safe, living or dying, in God’s hands;’ and wished to see his mother, for whom we had already sent. She came, was much shocked at his situation and surroundings, and said to him: ‘Henry, my son, are you not sorry you entered the army, and left home, to come out and suffer all this?’ Looking steadily at her, in a voice stronger than usual, he said: ‘Oh mother, how can you ask me such a question as that? You know I am not sorry. I loved my country, and for her cause I came.’ His mother remained constantly with him. His sufferings were great, but his confidence in the Savior never faltered.

“He had expressed to his mother the desire to be baptized; and early one Sabbath morning she sent for me. I went, and found him in great distress, though conscious, and able to reply to the questions I asked. I briefly explained the nature of the ordinance, and directed him to trust not in it, but in Christ. It was a novel sight. There on the stretcher lay that only child; by his side knelt his weeping mother. It was early. Only the sorrow-stricken mother was present at that baptismal scene. I

took the canteen that he had carried in battle, as it lay by the side of the stretcher, left by the nurse, filled with water for use in the night, and baptized him in the name of the sacred Trinity, as a sign of an inward renewal and working of the Holy Spirit.

“Henry died for his country,—first having found Jesus, the great Captain of his salvation, who had died for him.”

### Song on the Amputating Table.

Rev. Mr. Sloane says: “There was a young man from Massachusetts, Charles Warren, severely wounded in the leg. At first there was some hope of saving it; but mortification setting in, it became necessary to amputate it, as a last resort, and this with little hope of saving his life. A townsman was with him, and cared for him, who wished me try and awaken him to his condition, and point him to the Savior, saying: ‘I know he cannot live, and it will be a great comfort to his pious mother to know he died in hope of a blessed immortality.’ I had before visited him, and continued to see him, until he was led to cast himself upon the mercy of Him who is willing to save even to the uttermost. I had determined not to witness the operation, as too painful, and hopeless of good, and turned away, as they took up the stretcher to carry him to the amputating table. But what was our surprise to hear him singing, in a clear and cheerful voice, as they laid him on the amputating table, the familiar words:

‘There’ll be no more sorrow there;  
In heaven above, where all is love,  
There’ll be no more sorrow there.’

“I stayed, feeling that Charlie was calm, trusting in God. The limb was taken off, and he remained in a drowsy state for twenty-four hours, and then he gently passed away. We buried him in a quiet spot, with appropriate services,—thinking of him, as we left, as in that heaven of which he so cheerfully sang.”

### Happy Deathbed.

Mr. Sloane says: “I shall never forget the deathbed of William Eugene C——, a young man about nineteen years of age. He was the youngest of four brothers in the army. I had visited him almost every day in his tent. While hoping to recover, his mind became interested in religious matters. One died

on the cot opposite, rejoicing in a Savior's love. This deeply impressed him, and he soon after gave his heart to the Lord, and became reconciled to whatever might be His will. He talked of going home to be with Christ; said it was no matter when or where he died. To his pious nurse he talked much of dying, and frequently asked him to pray with him. An affectionate and beloved sister was with him for a week before his death. The day he died, Sabbath, November 23d, as several of those who had become interested in him were standing around his cot, he bid all, calling each one by name, an affectionate farewell, saying he hoped to meet us all in heaven. As I stood holding his hand, he asked me to pray. During the prayer he joined with great earnestness; then wished us to sing. We sang a few verses of the hymn,

*'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear.'*

After this he stretched out his arms, saying, 'Take me, take me away.' I asked, 'Where shall we take you to, William?' He said, 'O take me to heaven, take me to heaven to my Savior.' Soon after, calmly and peacefully, he went to his Savior.

### BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

In anticipation of a battle, special stores had been packed in boxes and barrels and forwarded from headquarters in Philadelphia to the rooms in Washington, as a reserve supply to be sent on to the battle-field; and other stores selected and packed in trunks for the delegates to take with them for instant use.

Before the battle, Rev. J. M. Barnett, a delegate with a quantity of stores, went on to Falmouth, and was there when the battle was fought, and aided in bringing the wounded across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg to Falmouth.

Soon after, Rev. Mr. Read, as general superintendent for the Commission, with a delegation, reported himself and party at Falmouth to Dr. Letterman, Medical Director of the army, who assigned them the grateful duty of receiving and feeding the thousands of wounded at Falmouth station, as they were transferred from ambulances to the cars; and at Acquia Creek (in connection with the Sanitary Commission), where they were removed from the cars to the boats.

A portion of our delegates were assigned to this specific work (which continued nine days), while others were directed by Mr. Read to visit all the various hospitals, to aid surgeons and chaplains, distribute supplies in their possession, and minister in every way to the temporal and spiritual necessities of the patient suffering heroes.

Ten thousand Testaments and hymn-books, and other reading matter in proportion, were distributed. Numerous letters for the dying were written, burial services performed, meetings for prayer were often held, personal appeals made. All which work was most gratefully received without a single exception. On one occasion, after a meeting had been held in a dimly lighted railroad car filled with prostrate wounded soldiers, every man expressed his determination, by God's help, to be a Christian. What a precious hour !

At Washington, also, at the Sixth Street wharf, the wounded were received and fed by our delegates with the kind and cordial assistance of Captain Robinson, the Quartermaster in charge. Delegates also served as nurses upon the boats between Acquia Creek and Washington.

None can compute the value of such a work as this. It was valuable to and highly appreciated by the Government. It prolonged many a precious life ; it received the " God bless you ! " of many an exhausted, shivering sufferer, and the heartfelt thanks, many times expressed, of anxious friends and kindred. Ought it not to receive the sympathy and aid of all loyal Christian hearts ?

### **The Work Pays.**

Rev. George B. Buzelle, of Bangor, Maine, writes from Washington, December 27th :

" Soon the wounded began to arrive, and we found work. The poor fellows were hungry, thirsty, wanting attention, everything. To this work we gave our time and strength. We soon had our operations reduced to something like system, so that the wounded who were coming in by thousands might receive food, warm drinks, stimulants, as the case might be, or words of sympathy and direction to Christ, as far as our means would extend."

"In a few days we went to Falmouth. Here we fed the men as they arrived from the field, and removed them from the ambulances to the cars. The delay of the coming of the cars, involving the exposure of the men for hours in the ambulances or on the open platform, with scanty clothing, faint from loss of blood or lack of proper nourishment, all this gave a fearful interest and importance to the work of our delegates at Falmouth. To assist in moving the men, make their position comfortable with hay or blankets, give them nourishment, if the wound be in the mouth, something soft, and do a thousand things which one does almost without thinking,—this was in part our work during those fearful days.

"The work pays. 'God bless you!' 'How kind you are!' from the wounded, are better than fat salaries, poor as I am.

"I like our organization. I know of no other which does the same work. It comes into immediate contact with the soldier, and helps him individually, and he feels that there is some heart in the work."

### **Work on Steamboats.**

Rev. F. N. Peloubet, of Oakburn, Mass., writes:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., December 27th, 1862.

"The first two days after Brother Cushing and myself reached here, we were busy with the wounded on the steamboats coming from Acquia Creek, giving them soft bread and apple-sauce, and helping them to the ambulances.

"Thursday morning, as we were by the boats, some one came to us and said, that on one of the boats was a man who had eaten nothing for three days. With bread in our hands, and brandy and wine in our canteens, and hymn-books in the pocket, we crossed over two steamboats to one where nothing had been eaten for twenty-four hours. They had been out in the cold all night,—had lain four hours at Acquia Creek on the cars in the cold, and now, waiting hours before they could be taken from the boat's deck (3000 wounded had come in that night), they were as patient as if Job had been the father of every one. But they were glad for something to eat, and of the hot coffee which came along soon.



"One man laughed as he took his bread. 'What are you laughing at?' asked another.

"'Who wouldn't laugh to see a piece of bread?'

"'This looks like home,'—'This reminds me of home,' was the expression of some.

"The regular Government boats are nicely fitted up, and have all the needful arrangements for the comfortable transportation of the wounded. But the other boats used for this purpose have neither food nor medicines, and a weary time would they have had but for the Christian Commission. At the chaplain's request, we held services, and talked individually as we could. One remarked, as we were leaving, 'I shall never forget that fur cap (Cushing's) wherever I meet it.' 'Nor I,' 'Nor I,' was the echo; my own less *distingue* chapeau getting but a dimmer fame."

Rev. J. H. Seaver, of Salem, Mass., writes from Washington, of the wounded at Fredericksburg, whom he found on the boats as they came up: "Many of these men were destitute of food and clothing. Any heart would have been touched at seeing those brave men stretching out their hands and craving a piece of soft bread; some of them seemed as thankful for it and made as much of it as if it had been a rich feast. Thus all the time since my arrival have I been on board of these steamboats, giving them food to eat and water to drink, and helping them as I could. There is not much opportunity for them to read while lying in such crowds, you would say, but to-day, after having cared for their bodily wants, I took a few tracts and offered them to the wounded men; their hands were soon stretched out for them, and whilst giving them out, I spoke to the wounded about the Savior, who was wounded for them. They need and wish religious reading. One said he had not heard a prayer for a year."

#### Seventy-five Regiments supplied by One Man.

(Extract from a letter of B. F. Bradbury, Esq., Bangor, Maine.)

Speaking of Falmouth,—

"My chief work was in visiting various regiments, and bestowing nice articles of diet, clothing, &c., for the sick in the hospitals; and in cases where there was no faithful chaplain, we

almost always read the Scriptures, sang and prayed, and said a few words to them. There are but few chaplains in the army, and this fact makes this kind of labor more essential. In this labor, we were always kindly received, and frequently expressions of deep gratitude were heard from the suffering ones.

"In the work of distributing reading matter among the men, we met with universal success. They are hungry for *good reading*. There seemed to be no end to the call for papers and hymn-books, prepared expressly for the soldiers, and the Testaments, &c. Everywhere they *rushed* to get them, and no one need doubt the good that has been done by them. I supplied about seventy-five different regiments with reading of this kind. We would start with an army wagon, two horses, in the morning, and sometimes we did not get back to our tent till after dark. If the friends of our soldiers could see the eagerness with which our men read religious books and papers, and could know how interested they are when you speak to them of Jesus, how ready, in many cases, they are to be led to the Savior, I think they would not relax their efforts for them.

"The Commission is doing a noble work, and we ought to understand that what we do must be done quickly."

### Early Impressions Revived.

There was a man wounded at the first day's fight at Shiloh. He lay all Sunday night in a tent held by the rebels, on the ground, in the mud, uncared for. During that long and terrible night, amid the rain and the roar of artillery, there came vividly back to him, the text and all the argument of a sermon he had heard twenty years before. The next day when our troops succeeded, he was rescued, cared for, and taken to St. Louis, where he was found and cared for by the members of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Holy Spirit sent home the impressions of that night, and that seed, twenty years buried, sprang up and brought forth fruit in his conversion. He lived six weeks to give testimony to God's goodness, and died in joy and hope, his last words being, "My God—my country—my mother!"

### A Good and Grateful Chaplain.

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE 8TH MICHIGAN INFANTRY,  
"FALMOUTH, VIRGINIA, January 17th, 1863.

#### "TO THE AGENCY OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION:

"DEAR SIR: Permit me, in the name of the sick of the 8th Regiment Michigan Infantry, to tender their sincere thanks, for the very acceptable favor you presented them through me the other day, and in thanking the Commission you represent, I would confess the evidence of an overruling Providence, in both your operation and my own, for as a Christian people, nothing offers me so much satisfaction as the evidence that God approves. When I entered your tent, I was ignorant of the real design and extent of your Commission, and only retold the tale of my necessities, as a relief to the fulness of my heart, supposing that your Commission was organized for particular regiments. I did not expect a favor, when in the catholic spirit of a patriot Christian, you informed me that you were prepared and willing to relieve us. My wants lay in the following case.

"We had a large number of men convalescent and suffering of want of appetite, and were wasting away before the 'hardtack and bean soup of the army fare,' but receiving at your hands some soft bread, soft crackers, and sweet butter, I mounted my horse, and galloped to my camp. I succeeded in getting to the hospital tent, just as the nurse entered with the bean soup for dinner, and before which many of the pale faces turned paler, but no sooner did they behold the palatable food I had, than every countenance lighted up with such an unutterable look of gratitude, that it must really be seen by any one to be realized. The next day I spread the crackers with butter, and then added a third layer of apple-butter, from the can you gave me, which was received with an equal amount of gratitude by all. I availed myself of the pleasure to honor the Commission you represent, by informing the men how I obtained these things, and depend upon it, sir, the blessings and the prayers of these poor but noble men fell thickly upon you; in the characteristic manner of the soldier, and as no other man can utter the word, one of them exclaimed, 'Bully for such a chaplain as you.' My dear sir, could but the ladies and kind friends who sustain you come and

witness a few of these cases, they would really believe that no one could bestow even a cup of cold water, but would receive their reward. May the blessings of heaven be upon you, and your truly Christian labors.

“G. TAYLOR,

“Chaplain 8th Michigan Regiment.”

### A Singular Surprise.

As we were placing men in the cars for Acquia Creek, I found one poor fellow shot through the mouth. The bullet had cut his tongue off; he could not speak. I asked him “Are you from New York?” He shook his head. “From Philadelphia?” He nodded. I placed him in the cars and did all I could for him. I took him on my arm as a mother takes her sick child, and was pouring some wine down his throat; he sprang up, made an awful noise in his throat, and pointed outside the car to a man who was passing. I went out and called the man, and who should it be but the soldier-boy’s own father in search for him. His blessings upon me and upon the Christian Commission who sent me, I shall never forget.

### An Arm Lost and a Savior Found.

In the field hospital, after giving each man something, just what he most needed, we talked six or eight minutes to them and prayed with them; they seemed very glad and grateful. After talking in one of these field hospitals about salvation as the great object, one of the brave fellows came up and said, pointing to his shoulder—the arm was gone,—“I lost my arm, but I am not sorry. If I had not lost my arm I might have lost my soul. I lost an arm, but I have found a Savior, and I can say it is better to have Jesus and one arm, than to have two arms and be as I have been before, without a Savior.”

### Song in Death.

A German captain had both legs off and was near death’s door. I gave him a Soldier’s Hymn-book. He told me he had been very wicked before he entered the army. Under the influence of a good chaplain, he had joined the church in his regiment. He said, “I am not afraid to die. I would infinitely rather die and

go to Jesus, than live." He found a hymn he had learned to sing, and began singing it in a clear, sweet voice. Gradually his voice died away as if melting into air, and I looked and he was dead.

### **Twofold Testimony of the Bravery inspired by True Religion.**

At one of these regimental hospitals, I witnessed a wonderful scene in the death of a soldier. His captain stood at his side. The dying man had a wife and two children. He spoke calmly and joyously of death; said he should soon be with Jesus. His wife and children he was not afraid to leave. God had said he would be the father of the fatherless and the husband of the widow; he could trust them to God. He was mortifying, and as I looked upon him he seemed to me like pearl, one of the pearls of the Savior's crown, and I thought a pearl mortifying.

His captain and all were deeply moved; tears flowed freely. The captain said, "Ah, he is a true Christian. True religion makes a man a hero. I am not one, but true religion makes a man a hero. Hypocrites are cowards. This man is an example of true religion." The dying man rose up and said, "Captain, did I ever shrink from duty?" "Never," said the captain, "never," and he fell back and died.

### **ANNAPOLIS AGENCY.**

Early in our work, Rev. H. C. Henries, Chaplain of the United States General Hospital at Annapolis, began to render efficient service to the Commission as its agent. Through his hands, nearly all the publications and stores sent by us for the hospitals in Annapolis, and Parole Camp near by, have passed, and he has counselled and directed our delegates sent there to work.

Governor Bradford and Judge Brewer have also kindly given us the benefit of their wisdom, influence, and hospitality. To them, and their excellent wives and daughters, the suffering soldiers and our bleeding country are indebted for most timely and excellent service.

The Commission, in turn, has given Chaplain Henries much and valuable aid by its delegates, in his great hospital, with its room for three thousand men, and by reading-matter for distribu-

tion. A great and good work has been done there. Deep and abiding religious interest has been manifested. Daily religious services, largely attended, have been kept up much of the time. Many wanderers have been reclaimed, believers encouraged, and sinners converted to God. A single incident from the many that might be given, must suffice as an illustration of the good done.

### Will You Go?

Passing through the wards, according to daily custom, to talk, pray, and give out papers and tracts, in one of them a cot was found vacant, upon which a soldier had long lain. He was so far convalescent as to be abroad for exercise, air, and sunlight. Upon the clean white counterpane, a single-leaf tract was placed, to remind him that he was remembered. It was the hymn commencing,

"We are travelling home, to heaven above,  
Will you go?"

Next day, in the crowded meeting, in the large library and reading-room, after prayer, singing, and addresses by Chaplain Henries and Rev. Dr. Patterson, delegate of the Commission, the question was asked, whether any in the assembly desired to confess Christ before their fellow-soldiers, and the opportunity given for those who did, to rise and speak. Slowly a tall military figure rose up, and held forth a tract to the view. Distinctly, in humble, touching tones, he said:

"I have never confessed my Savior. I am not ashamed of Jesus. I am ashamed of myself, that I have been so long ashamed of Him. I desire now to confess Him before all the world. He is very precious to me. This little tract was the means of turning me to Him. I found it on my cot, and read it. It said, 'We are travelling home to heaven above, will you go?' And I said, Yes, I will. So I sat down and wrote upon it, Yes, by the grace of God, I will, and signed my name. And now I desire to confess Christ before all the world, and hope I am travelling home to heaven above. Pray for me, that I may serve my Savior, and stand up for Him here, and may at last have a home with Him in heaven above."

Rev. Mr. Henries writes under date January 1, 1863: "Our Heavenly Father God is with us, and we are constantly witnessing His power in the salvation of souls. Oh, what a field white unto the harvest! How every effort ought to be made to redeem this great multitude unto the Lord.

"I send a letter from one of our converts, about thirty-five years of age, who had never given any attention to religion till about the time of the date of the letter. He is warm in his new love, and has taken part in all our meetings and is an active and useful member, and prays in his ward with the sick. This is a fair sample of all who have given their hearts to Christ. They become workers in the vineyard of the Master."

U. S. GENERAL HOSPITAL,  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, November 30th, 1862.

REV. MR. HENRIES.

SIR: I desire, as an intelligent being, to give my life, my heart, and my all to God, and to become one of the humble followers of the meek and lowly Jesus.

For this end I desire an interest in your prayers and of all the people of God, and as soon as you shall deem proper, I desire to become a member of the Christian Association of this hospital, that I may have a protection from the temptations of the world and the Devil, and that I may have piety promoted in my heart.

Yours in Christ,

OTIS B. FULLER,  
Warden Ward 8, Sect. 2.

### CAMP PAROLE, NEAR ANNAPOLIS.

At some time during the progress of the Peninsular campaign, and whilst the armies under General Banks and General Fremont were marching and fighting in the Valley of Virginia, opposed by "Stonewall" Jackson, the practice of releasing prisoners upon their parole came into use extensively by the rebel chieftains. Many were taken and paroled by the partisan General John Morgan in the West, by "Stonewall" Jackson in the Valley, and some by the generals before Richmond.

A camp for these paroled soldiers of our own army was established near Annapolis first, and soon after another near Alex-

andria. That near Annapolis very soon numbered five or six thousand, and shortly swelled to sixteen thousand.

The men came in from the Valley and from the West stripped of everything, worn and weary; and from Richmond, covered with rags, filth, and vermin, destitute, dejected, and miserable. The Government provided tents, rations, and an officer to command. But they needed clothing, sympathy, reading-matter, and hospital comforts.

This was the state of things when, in response to the earnest appeal of Rev. H. C. Henries, Chaplain of the United States General Hospital at Annapolis, the Christian Commission sent stores, reading-matter, and delegates to them.

There was no chaplain. Many of them had lost their "descriptive lists," and could neither draw their pay or procure clothing. They were in idleness, because their parole pledged them to do nothing for our Government until exchanged. Idleness bred vice, drinking, and gambling. Riot followed in the train, and authority was set at naught.

These delegates were succeeded by others, amongst whom were Rev. Mr. Rockwood, of the American Tract Society, Mr. S. H. Thompson, Hunter Corbett, and many others. A chapel tent holding one hundred and seventy-five persons was furnished by the officer in command, in which the daily evening prayer-meeting was held, whilst the daily preaching was in the open air, often to a thousand or fifteen hundred persons.

The fruits of their work have cheered them on. A vast amount of relief has been bestowed and suffering saved, many letters written for the soldiers to their friends, many descriptive lists obtained for them to enable them to get their pay, the character and condition of the camp improved, interest in eternal things awakened, and many men led to repent and fly to the Savior.

### **A Glorious Day.**

Rev. A. Read writes at the close of his first Sabbath:

"A glorious day! I spent the morning among the very sick in the hospitals, distributing, reading, addressing men personally and collectively, and praying with them. In the afternoon I preached under the trees in the College grounds (St. John's Col-



lege Hospital) at half past one, and at half past three in the yard, and at half past four in Parole Camp. All good meetings, especially the one at Parole Camp. Five hundred men gathered around the carriage. We distributed Testaments and hymn-books, and they listened with profound attention and interest to the sermon, which was a running commentary on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. At the close, we took a vote as to whether they would attend a like service next day at the same hour. Four or five hundred hands were up instantly.

"On Monday I went and preached of the Great Physician. A crowd of eager listeners again, a number of whom told me they would henceforth, by God's grace, live for heaven.

"Oh, how eagerly they listened! How greedily they seized the Testaments, how anxiously they waited upon the ministrations! Could you have seen but this one, one of many such instances of the good being done, I know you would love still more and aid still more the Christian Commission.

"There is no exaggeration in the accounts of their desire for reading-matter. I never witnessed such greedy avidity as theirs for Testaments and hymn-books. Many inquiries for German books were necessarily unsatisfied, as we had none. I promised they should have them."

Mr. Corbett gives an interesting fact in relation to

#### **A Man who Missed the Cars.**

"He had secured his discharge and started for home, but missed the cars, and went back to the camp and into the prayer-meeting. By and by he rose up and stated these facts, and went on to say: 'Since I came into this meeting I have been thinking that the Lord had sent me back to seek an interest in the Savior, and that if I should not do it I should miss the cars for heaven.' He was a fine, noble, intelligent-looking young man, and deeply in earnest. He begged us to pray for him.

"Next morning he called at the tent for instruction, and gave evidence that he had indeed given himself up to Jesus, and found an interest in Him."

### A Joyous Convert.

"Another man rose in the prayer-meeting one evening in great agony, and begged the prayers of all present. 'Brethren, do pray for me; I am a great sinner; I must have Christ or be lost!'

"Two nights after, he rose and said: 'Brethren, I cannot express my joy! I have found Jesus! O that all would come to Him.'"

### Riot Quelled by the Cross.

Rev. Mr. Bringhurst writes from Annapolis, Oct. 27, 1862: "Arriving at their camp, I found a scene of fearful insubordination, caused by the recklessness of a few inebriated soldiers. Several buildings had been fired, others threatened with destruction. Fiendish yells, accompanied with bitter oaths, rent the air, while six companies of the 131st New York and three of a Maryland cavalry regiment, made desperate efforts to restore order. In the midst of the confusion, I assembled about fifty men around me, and commenced singing, 'Say, brothers, will you meet us?' Hundreds replied practically, and soon I was surrounded by an immense audience. After singing, we united in prayer, and then with earnestness they listened to my brief address, consisting of the simple, though touching story of the cross of Jesus. Order was restored, perfect order; not by the sword, but by the cross, which is 'the power of God.' I was gratified to hear subsequently from the colonel in command, that a quieter night had not been experienced in the camp. There are seven thousand six hundred and sixty-two of our soldiers here. Each State is represented.

"Sunday afternoon I was furnished with a horse by Judge Brewer, of Annapolis, a gentleman who has manifested a deep interest in the support of our Government, and provided generally for the delegates of the Commission visiting Annapolis. Enveloped in a suit of India-rubber, I started through the drenching rain for the camp. My approach was hailed with pleasure, and the afternoon spent in meetings in the different tents. Oh how they prize these meetings! How willing to give up everything, that they may attend! How eagerly they listen

to those cheering words which have illuminated the dark days of so many soldiers! Rest assured, my dear friend, the 'Christian Commission' is doing a glorious work; its efforts are not fruitless.

### Welcome Visit.

"That visit of the Rev. Messrs. Parvin and Mingins, a few weeks since, to this place, has been richly blessed. One man, in speaking of his love of the Gospel, alluded to these men, and said there was a Scotchman here from Pennsylvania (naming Mr. Mingins), 'whose words are still ringing in my ears.' I could not but pray that they would continue to ring, until the joyful sound rings through the courts of heaven, that another soldier has been washed in the blood of Christ.

"When Mr. Mingins talked of preaching, men smiled. We were determined to try. Myself and another Christian brother drove to the camp in an open carriage, and stopped in the centre of the encampment. Soon the soldiers lounged up to us, asking what we had to sell. 'Nothing,' we replied. 'Have you anything to give away?' they asked. Putting our hand into our satchel, we gave them a tract of Gospel Hymns. One soldier said, 'Ah, I've read these before.' We commenced singing, 'There is a fountain filled with blood.' Before we were done, a thousand men were collected around our carriage; and a more attentive audience we never addressed. After we were done preaching, we opened a parcel of books, to distribute them. The scene which followed beggars description. So anxious were the poor fellows to secure reading, that we thought they would trample each other under feet. They climbed up in front, on each side, in at the back, until we had scarcely room to act; yet were we treated with the greatest respect. Night after night we thus addressed them. One night, as we were leaving them, a soldier advanced to the carriage, saying, 'Sir, I want you to pray for me and for my comrades in arms. We need your prayers, appreciate your labors, and hope God will bless the Commission.' As we were leaving, he took hold of my hand, pressed it, then quickly passed through the crowd. He had left something in my hand. It was a *ragged one dollar bill*, very likely his all. It showed his gratitude."

### Another Account.

Rev. Mr. Parvin, writing from Annapolis, Oct. 3, 1862, says: "At Annapolis and vicinity, our work for a few days past has been with the sick and wounded in the General Hospital, and the four thousand Union soldiers now at Camp Parole. The stores of clothing, cordials, fruits, &c., sent by the Christian Commission, were and are of inestimable value. I found, without exception, the men seemingly grateful for the visits of a Christian minister at their bedsides, and for the words of Gospel cheer and invitation spoken to them, and prayers offered in their behalf, and the little books and tracts handed to them.

"The chaplain in charge, Rev. Mr. Henries, does what he can, and labors faithfully; but the field is altogether too large for him, or for any one man.

"Rev. Mr. Mingins and myself drove into the Parole Camp inclosure on Wednesday afternoon last, and again on the following day about five o'clock, and were surrounded by a large crowd, curious to know what we had for sale. From our conveyance we distributed a few hundred copies of single sheets containing some twenty hymns, and explained, in a few words, our mission. We gave out the sweet Christian hymn, 'There is a fountain filled with blood;' and hundreds of voices took up the strain, and many hearts showed that they felt the power of the words, so often heard in their own churches at home. It was not long before at least a thousand men surrounded us, and most attentively listened to our addresses to them, and to our prayer for them; and then a thousand voices seemed to join in the closing doxology, 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.'

"Our stock of books and tracts was then distributed, and most eagerly received. The men cheered us. They cried out, 'God bless you! God bless you, for coming to see us!' and not a few were the warm grasps of the hand, accompanied by the tearful utterance of the words, 'Pray for us; pray for us, that we may not altogether forget the Lord, and our duty to Him.'

"As we drove out of the camp grounds, the moon then shining brightly upon the scene, we heard, from various quarters, soldiers singing our Christian hymns, in place of their camp songs."

### **Eagerness of the Men for Religious Reading and Instruction.**

Rev. E. C. Ambler writes: "Last Lord's day morning, my wife and myself went into the camp of the paroled prisoners and distributed the very last tracts in our possession. I tell you it would have done your soul good to have seen how eagerly they received the tracts and papers, and to have heard the expressions of thankfulness for them.

"I made an appointment to preach to them at 6 P.M., and preached from 'No man careth for my soul.' There were present about fifteen hundred in all; some noble, healthy-looking officers and men, some very pale and sickly, worn out by disease and hard labor; some wounded and scarcely able to move, having been in prison nearly a year in Richmond and other places. After services were over, they flocked around us and thanked me for coming to preach to them, and urged me to make an appointment to preach on a week-day, saying they had no duty to perform and could attend a meeting one day as well as another. I told them I would do so."

### **Religious Interest.**

Mr. Jones says: "While he was there they held an open-air prayer-meeting from day to day. The interest was such that from five to eight hundred were in attendance. All they had to do was to open the meeting, then say, 'Now, boys, pray,' and four or five perhaps at once would be ready to begin.

"In the hospital tent a young man, dying, sent for Mr. Jones. He told him he had been very wicked; his parents were Christians; he could not die so. Said he, 'I have read and prayed a great deal. The great, great question is, what shall I do to be saved? I cannot get hold of it.' 'All you have to do is to *believe*. Just trust all to Jesus.' 'Is that all?' 'Yes; can you do that?' Waiting a moment, he answered, 'Yes, I can.' Soon his confidence in Christ became very strong, and at last he said, 'Yes, if I had a thousand souls I could trust them all to Jesus,' and he sank away and died."

**A Wanderer Reclaimed.**

There were many such. One rose in one of the evening meetings and said: "Four years ago I gave myself to the Savior, but under temptation, basely deserted Him. I came to this meeting as hardened a sinner as ever lived, but thanks be to God, He has touched my heart. I am now determined to begin His service anew. Brethren, pray for me."

**A Contrast.**

Mr. Corbett describes two death-scenes, one peaceful and triumphant, the other hard and careless.

"After talking and praying with him, the dying Christian broke forth in these words: 'The Lord is my Shepherd: I have trusted Him when well; He will not forsake me in death. I will soon be home in heaven with my mother and sisters and brothers. Won't you sing for me,

"Jerusalem, my happy home!"'

"After it was sung the words of parting came, and he passed gently away.

"The other man, dying on his cot, answered the kind inquiry about his preparation to meet God, by saying, 'I don't care what God does with me,' and so died."

**CAMP CONVALESCENT, NEAR ALEXANDRIA.**

Of all the special work after that of the battle-fields, none has been more sadly earnest or hopefully fruitful than that in Camp Convalescent.

Three distinct camps clustered together have gone under the one name,—Parole camp, which, like that near Annapolis, has been a great gathering-place of our own men taken and paroled by the rebels, Stragglers' camp, where stragglers from the army were retained until sent back to their regiments, and Camp Convalescent proper, where the men from various hospitals were sent as soon as they so far recovered as to admit of it, in preparation for taking their places again in the service, and where men were sent from their regiments to be discharged. At one time, twenty-two thousand men were collected in this threefold camp. Tents and rations were provided by the Government. The condition of the men, however, was such, that it received as its popular name the sobriquet of "Camp Misery," and attracted the spe-

cial attention and action of Congress. Although this singular camp was established by Government, no chaplain was appointed for it or assigned to it.

Here the Commission has been permitted to accomplish a long-continued and excellent work.

### **Relief and Sympathy First, and then the Gospel.**

Never anywhere was relief and sympathy more welcome or necessary. The suffering was unparalleled and appalling. Despondency and despair, aided by cold, hunger, filth, vermin, and disease, settled heavily upon thousands of hearts. Appeals to the Commission were urgent, earnest, terrible. The relief afforded through our delegates, though far from complete and universal, warmed many a poor shivering soldier, fed many a convalescent whose weak appetite rejected the hearty rations of well men, cheered with hope many a sinking heart, and saved many from the grave.

For months past our delegates have been constantly there by day and by night, occupying two tents, well supplied with stores, and doing everything feasible for the relief of suffering humanity.

They have distributed wagon-loads of clothing, delicacies, and comforts for the sick; they have aided in securing hundreds of discharges for the disabled, written hundreds of letters for the helpless and the dying, buried many dead, distributed twenty thousand Testaments, hymn-books, and papers, and a million pages of tracts, opening and sustaining a daily prayer-meeting, and holding preaching services as frequently as opportunity offered.

And this good work still goes on, every facility being afforded by the authorities. A chapel-tent, capable of holding more than four hundred persons, has been purchased by the Commission, and earnest men "located" in the camps, and thorough arrangements made for a systematic and constant supply of stores.

### **Daily Work.**

C. R. Treat, of Boston, writes January 2d, 1863:

"Our daily programme is as follows: Immediately after breakfast a prayer-meeting, to which professing Christians are invited, continuing one hour. Then, with an assortment of books, tracts, and supplies, we start to visit the men in the tents. The plan is to give the men writing paper, a comb, or some little articles they

need ; then tracts and other reading, and Testaments when needed, following up these gifts with more or less extended conversation on religious subjects. Working thus till sundown, we take supper, and after a short rest we go to the prayer-meeting or hospitals, closing the day.

"All seem to be thirsting for the water of life. They hear what is said to them, and seem quite disposed to consider at once the question of their souls' salvation. It is an opportunity for doing good seldom met with."

#### The Great Need.

Mr. Kimball, son of James W. Kimball, of Boston, writes from this camp, December, 1862:

"After all, the great need is in spiritual matters. Here the destitution is absolute, nine thousand odd men with neither church, chaplain, or any one to care for their souls, except the Christian Commission. All receive reading matter with avidity, many very bad men reading a Testament in preference to doing nothing. We have two large tents and a small one from Government. The Commission have bought a tent, which will cost four hundred dollars, for religious services. The men come to our daily morning prayer-meetings, and to our evening meetings, and won't give us a chance to close for two hours."

Rev. J. M. Barnett writes under date, Hillside, Pa., January 15th, 1863:

"Brother Ellis (delegate of the Commission from Cincinnati, Ohio) and myself visited from tent to tent all day long, day after day, supplying, as far as we could, warm underclothing, writing materials, and reading matter, accompanying our gifts with warm assurances of home-sympathy, followed by earnest words for salvation.

"The smaller tents sheltered four or five, the larger twelve to sixteen. There was no end to the need of underclothing, socks, &c.

"Many of our interviews were touching and tender. At first some were indifferent, some playing cards ; but indifference and card-playing soon gave way, and the despondent, careless countenance kindled with hope, interest, and life. Warm, earnest, often tearful thanks were expressed, and God's blessing asked upon the friends who had sent the good gifts, and upon the Christian Commission.



**The Testament. The Soldiers' Estimate.**

"Some had Testaments which they had carried through all the war, and the frequent expression from them was, 'I would not part with mine on any consideration.' Others had lost theirs in battles or retreats, but were eager to be again supplied.

**Three Men were Converted by the Daily Reading**

"Of the Testament in their tent. The tent sheltered five. Two of them were faithful Christians, and read the Testament every day for the benefit of all. And God blessed it to the salvation of their three fellow-soldiers.

**A Hundred Hands stretched out for Reading Matter.**

"In one street of the camp, I was asked by a soldier for a paper, and stopped to give it to him, when, in a moment, a hundred others gathered around, stretching out their hands and eagerly saying, 'Give me a paper!' 'Give me one!' 'Give me one, too!' My stock was quickly exhausted, and even after I told them that they were all gone, they still followed, beseeching me for something to read.

**The Camp Moved and Improved.**

The authorities have moved the camp to better ground, and are erecting comfortable board barracks for the men, and in every way improving the condition of the men and the camp.

They also have proposed to erect for the Christian Commission

**A Board Chapel,**

provided the Commission will furnish the boards, and will also secure the permanent services of a minister, to be known as the Chaplain of the Camp, with such assistants as he may need from time to time. The authorities propose to allow rations to the chaplain, but cannot secure pay for his services of the Government, as there is no law authorizing the appointment of chaplains for camps of this kind.

The Commission have voted to accede to these propositions, authorized Mr. Miller, of Washington, to furnish the lumber for the chapel, and have already secured the services of a tried, excellent, and efficient minister for the post.

Thank God, there is therefore a brighter future in prospect for Camp Convalescent.

### POINT LOOKOUT.

A corps of delegates were sent by appointment of Surgeon-General Hammond, four in all, to Point Lookout, under Mr. G. L. Shearer, who reports as follows :

#### The Place.

This is the most southern part of Maryland. It is a sandy peninsula, separating the waters of the Chesapeake and Potomac, just before the latter is lost in the bay. Previous to the war it was a favorite watering-place for Dixie ; but six months ago it became Hammond General Hospital.

In the beginning of December, this contained nine hundred patients. To these were added eleven hundred from Fredericksburg, making two thousand of our brave but suffering soldiers. In this bleak spot, there are no visits from mothers, wives, or sisters ; nor can the various Aid Committees, so efficient elsewhere, distribute their comforts. Their report came to the Christian Commission. They immediately sent forward four young men, theological students, and a large quantity of supplies.

#### Delegates appointed Medical Cadets.

The Surgeon in charge, Dr. Wagner, received them very cordially, provided quarters, furnished food, and in order to further facilitate their labors, appointed them " Acting Medical Cadets." Thus assisted and directed, they labored, dressing wounds and relieving destitution, speaking kind words, and writing for them to loved ones at home ; in short doing all in their power to increase the comfort of the soldiers. I need hardly say that many were made glad. Warm underclothing especially was very gratefully received. Their knapsacks had been left in camp previous to the battle ; hence all they brought with them was what they had worn in the fight.

The hospital was able to supply many hundreds ; but the sudden increase of wounded more than doubled its number of patients, and its capacity was thus temporarily overtaxed. These cases were sought out and their wants satisfied.

#### Act as Christian Cadets.

But the Christian Commission also cares for the souls of men.

The chaplain was absent on a furlough. A Catholic priest is stationed there; he was at his post and was not idle. The visit of the Commission was opportune. Among the supplies was a large quantity of American Messengers, Banners, tracts, and religious reading from nearly every Evangelical denomination, besides between three and four hundred Testaments and Psalms. How welcome was this *Word of life*! Their distribution was usually accompanied with a few earnest words from the donor, and an apology from the soldier for being without God's word. "I brought one with me," they say, "but I left it in my knapsack." They seem to regard the Word as a necessary part of their equipment. Not a few had taken them from their knapsacks and carried them through the fight.

#### **A Bible Prized for Itself and for its Giver.**

A soldier severely wounded was sitting on his bed, and a Bible lay beside him. "Friend," said one of the Commission, "I am glad to see you have a Bible; where did you get it?" "I brought it with me from Erie County, Pennsylvania," was the reply; and continuing, he said, "my sister gave it me." "Ah! then you carry it because you love your sister?" "Yes, but, I love to read it because it is God's word," said he. The hearts of those strangers were knit together; pleasant words were exchanged, and both "thanked God and took courage," from that interview.

#### **Religious Meetings.**

These things fully occupied the daytime; in the evenings, meetings were held in the chapel. A passage of Scripture was explained; songs of praise and fervent prayers ascended; the soldiers frequently leading in prayer, to the edification of the assembly. The services were solemn and impressive; men renewed their vows to God; thoughtless souls were aroused, some were conversed with, who were seeking the Lord with tears, and the faith of many was strengthened. A semi-weekly prayer-meeting was established and left under the charge of C. C. Foster, an active Christian man. Numbers were asking the way of salvation. There were two thousand patients, and the hospital had been six months in existence, yet they had never had a prayer-meeting there before. The surgeons were very kind and cordial.

As the delegates were about to leave, and in expectation of the steamboat, the surgeons, in allusion to the irregularity and uncertainty of its arrival, said they hoped "there would be no boat for a month, so they would have to stay."

### GENERAL WORK.

We have now given a report of our special work as we could; but no report can give a full idea of its interest or importance.

Our general work has been to supply religious services, aiding chaplains, where there were any, and preaching to multitudes of soldiers who had no chaplains or means of religious instruction, except what we provided; supplying reading matter for the armies and for hospitals, regimental and general; distributing bodily comforts, and bringing home influences to the camp. We have had delegates in all our great armies, who have been welcomed by the chaplains and by the men. The generals and officers have given them free access, and encouraged them in their work. They have found everywhere great eagerness to obtain religious reading, great desire to hear the preached word, and great willingness to converse on the subject of religion. Many, many will rise up that last day, to call them blessed.

They have gone to the men, held under the stern discipline of war, and treated as parts of a great machine; taken them by the hand as brethren, and revived the sympathies and affections of their souls; shown them that many hearts cared for them at home, and above all, that there was One who could sympathize in all their trials.

We can testify that our whole army is prepared in an unusual degree to receive the Gospel. And what we have done is only the beginning of a mighty work, to fully accomplish which will call for all the resources of our churches.

We give some of the facts and incidents which illustrate our general work.

### Field Work and Field Wants.

When the Commission first met in Washington, they spent a day in the camps. Just as the sun was setting behind the hills west of Manassas, they drove out to Minor's Hill, where were stationed several regiments in a most beautiful encampment. As night was coming on, they did not intend to stop, lest they

should fail of getting into Washington before the guard was set; but one of their number threw out a few tracts, and instantly, as if by magic, the men began to appear from all quarters, rushing towards the omnibus with outstretched hands. They stopped, and in a few moments were surrounded by from one thousand to fifteen hundred men, all asking for reading matter. They gave all they had; and then Mr. Stuart and Dr. Neill made them short addresses, and Mr. Stuart, from the top of the omnibus, proposed a prayer. Every cap was off in an instant, and they stood in quiet, as the prayer was offered. Their good-by was said, and the carriage started off at a rapid rate; but the men pursued, some of them nearly half a mile, with hands reaching out for tracts.

#### **Praying in a Bomb-proof, or going Down to get Up.**

The members of the Commission visited Fort Albany, then occupied by the 14th Massachusetts. As they were passing around the fort, one of the soldiers led them to a square hole, and said: "Look here." "What is that?" "It's the bomb-proof, where we hold our daily prayer-meetings, down twelve feet under ground." "Do any come?" "Yes, sixty or more." "Do you find Christ?" "Yes," said he, "we find Him here as well as at home." "So you go down, to get up to Jesus."

The Commission returned to Washington, convinced that their work was welcome to the army. Thus began the work of the Christian Commission.

Two delegates, with publications and stores, were despatched with

#### **General Banks's Expedition.**

Welcomed by the General himself, and gladly received by the good chaplains of his expedition, who by this means may obtain books, tracts, and papers for use, we may hope to hear good news in due time from the Crescent City and the Gulf Department, through them.

Indeed, already intelligence has reached us from one of the chaplains, of deep and extensive religious interest awakened amongst the men of several regiments, during the voyage. Overtaken by a great storm, they were in awful peril. Men who had scoffed before, threw themselves upon the necks of those whose praying they had ridiculed, and besought them to pray for them.

Officers who went below with their men, to talk and pray with them, won their hearts as they never otherwise could have done it; and, best of all, as the storm ceased, the religious interest increased. Five meetings were held on the Sabbath-day on one transport, and many were hopefully converted before reaching New Orleans.

#### **From the Army of the Potomac.**

Rev. F. N. Peloubet writes under date Oakham, Mass., Jan. 14th, 1863:

"Never was there a place where the Gospel was more needed than in the army, and unfavorable as the moral atmosphere is to religion, it may reach many a soldier's heart.

"A cavalry captain told me, 'The Government thinks curry-combs of more importance than Testaments. We must carry our curry-combs whether we carry Testaments or not.'

"Once while ministering to the wants of the wounded, in the Christian order of caring for the body to reach the soul, one asked 'What is to pay?' 'Nothing,' was the answer; 'it is as free as the Gospel.' 'Ah! soldiers don't have much of that kind.' 'I hope you like the Gospel as well as you do this.' 'Yes,' he replied, 'the Gospel is good too.'"

#### **Field Fare not the best, and Field Work not easy.**

Mr. Peloubet says further: "We found that the 36th had just escaped the battle of Fredericksburg, having lain Saturday night in a ravine under the enemy's guns, and were prevented from making a charge next morning only by a change of general plans and an order to recross the river. A sleepless night and a three mile walk, carrying our baggage and bread, made us weary enough, and we could not do much except talk over matters with the chaplain and a surgeon of our acquaintance. It was a cold, blustering night, and we began to taste the discomforts of a soldier's life. We slept in tents with soldiers and officers, supped on hardtack and coffee, and took meals with the officers. The poorest in our village live in more comfort than even the officers in the field.

#### **The first Prayer-Meeting in the Regiment. Home Sympathies and Prayers.**

"Saturday morning we went into the regimental hospital, wrote

letters for the sick, conversed with them and held a prayer-meeting, the first they had enjoyed. It was sweet to be able to tell them of Jesus and of home; how at home we thought of them; that scarcely a prayer was offered in our prayer-meetings or church, at the family altar or in secret, in which the soldier was not remembered. We miss them at home, at the prayer-meeting and in the social gathering. It was sweet to tell them so, and pleasant for them to know that we loved them, thought of, and prayed for them. But a home in heaven is better, and the love of Jesus is sweeter.

#### **Regimental Hospitals. Their Necessities.**

"Regimental hospitals are not so well provided with food, medicines, or any of the little essentials of the sick-room, as are those on a larger scale. There are no places where the Christian Commission can do more than in the regimental hospital.

"We left some of our soft bread and solidified milk here, and for once at least, hardtack yielded to milk toast. In another hospital, some being unable to eat the broth, I was permitted to distribute the soft bread we had, spread with marmalade, which they relished, and were very grateful for.

#### **Sabbath Regimental Service and Prayer-Meeting.**

"Mr. Cushing and I returned to the 36th in time for the regimental service, in which we took part; then going to the tents, we talked with our own parishioners about home, and finally held a prayer-meeting, bringing in other religious men.

"One remarked, that religion in the army was like the resources of the country,—we were living on former capital. Another wanted me to urge the young not to swear; he felt the evil of profanity. Another said, that keeping religion burning in the heart in the army, was like their green wood fires, hard to get into a bright flame."

#### **Eagerness for Papers.**

B. F. Bradbury, of Bangor, Me., writes Jan. 2d, 1863:

"The intense eagerness with which the soldiers lay hold of 'The Messenger' and the little Sunday-School papers and the little books and Testaments, is perfectly wonderful. You can imagine the eagerness with which the children in the country would gather around a wagon where were apples or oranges or

candy to give away, and then perhaps you may get some idea how these men seize these beautiful and valuable presents. While I am distributing them, I try to talk to them as well as I can about Jesus and the great salvation.

"Wherever I go in the great army, I find a welcome greeting if I only carry these things. They are anxious to get those papers they have been in the habit of reading at home. I have often seen them sitting around their tents most earnestly reading them.

#### White Oak Church.

"In one regiment which we visited last Sabbath, we found it almost impossible to supply the demand for Testaments, but after giving so that we thought there would be at least one in a tent, we invited them to form in a ring on the side of the road, and there we had a short service. (This was at 'White Oak Church.') Many an eye was moist in that large throng, and we could not but bless God, that we had been permitted to convey to those noble men such a blessing. As we go around in this way, how often I think of the Scriptures, where seventy were sent out two by two to heal the sick and proclaim the glad tidings."

Rev. J. M. Barnett was at Falmouth when the battle was fought at Fredericksburg. After the pressure of caring for the wounded was in some measure passed, he went into the camps to do what he could for the well. He writes as follows, under date Hillside, Pa., Jan. 15th, 1863.

"I remained until December 28d, assisting the brethren of the Committee in feeding the wounded soldiers who were sent away from the station; visiting hospitals, and especially the hospital in Falmouth, where the sick and wounded of the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers were; visiting regiments, and distributing reading matter; and talking, as opportunity offered. On the Sabbath week following the battle, I preached in the morning to the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers, in a little church on the Rappahannock, within gunshot of the rebel pickets. The church is old; was used as a union church by several denominations, but is now occupied by some of our troops. The gallery still stands, but the seats and pulpit are torn out. In the afternoon I went to the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and held services in the open air. Both audiences, though the former could hardly stay in the



house for smoke, and the latter were shivering with cold, listened with earnest attention.

"The soldiers were always ready to hear, and always eager to get Testaments, when they were not already supplied, and tracts. In but three or four instances were Testaments refused, and in two of these I learned the persons could not read; and in but one case did I see a tract refused. The earnest, urgent request from chaplains and men was, 'Give us something to read; do send us reading matter.' One chaplain said: 'If possible, send us something to read,—the men are hungry for it. We have no tent to hold service in; and while we have nothing to give the men to read, our hands are tied, and usefulness hindered.'

"And thus it is all over the army. The cry comes alike from those who love Christ, and those who are strangers to Him. Often was the inquiry made, 'Have you any German books?' 'What do you want, my friend?' 'The Testament and Hymn-book,' was generally the reply. Now shall this earnest cry pass unheeded by Christians at home? Shall the soldier, who so much needs the Gospel, be allowed to suffer from this moral and spiritual hunger?

"Everywhere I was received with kindness and courtesy; and most of the time, while on the front, I boarded with the quartermaster of the 53d Pennsylvania Volunteers, free of expense.

"The work of the Commission is a blessed work; and if the sad necessity continues, I shall be glad, by and by, to engage in it again, hoping that my experience may enable me to do more for our noble soldiers than I have. Meantime I will strive to do what I can at home.

"I send you copies of a letter written by a soldier in Camp Convalescent, and of one written by myself, by request of Mr. Shearer.

"May God bless you and your great work."

#### **The Field White, the Harvest Ready.**

Rev. J. P. Janeway writes from Fortress Monroe: "Never before have I felt so much engaged in the blessed work of Jesus. The ever fresh call for exertion which is daily made in these hospitals, leaves a man no time for idleness. The intensity with which the men listen to words from a minister, the anxiety

with which they desire the Bible read, and the earnestness with which they want to be taught to pray, fills one's heart so full, that the great expenditure of physical strength is not to be thought of for a moment.

"When we arrived here, they were dying at the rate of four a day, without a word to guide their minds towards Him who snatches from death its sting, from the grave its victory. Oh, sir, one must see the sad deathbed of such, to fully understand the necessity and importance of the Christian Commission here! A more inviting field can nowhere be found than this. The ground is good, and fully prepared for the seed. I never imagined a more impressible class of men than these wounded soldiers. A few words are often enough to fill their eyes with honest tears, and to fix upon their minds an impression which seems to be lasting.

"Many of these men have not been accustomed to pray, and some have never even known how; yet they desire anxiously to be taught. And when the simple path of coming to the mercy-seat is shown to them, they seize upon it with a fervor surprising indeed. I have one poor Southerner, who was really so ignorant that he could not frame the simplest petition, but now spends most of his time in communion with his Master. God's Holy Spirit seems constantly present, to turn our feeble words in the right direction to reach the heart."

### Temporal Work an Aid.

The same man writes from same place: "But besides affording all the spiritual instruction we are able, there is a large amount of work to be done for their temporal comfort. We sit by their bedsides, fan them, make their beds sometimes, cool their lips with water, write letters, read to them, and cheer up their spirits in every way. If a person is faithful in these little attentions, he soon reaches the heart; and then any lesson they should learn, is easily taught to their willing minds.

"We want men to work in this glorious cause. May God bless our National Christian Commission, and put it into the hearts of many more to give of their substance to this most important work."

A young man, during one of the battles before Richmond, while lying upon his face in a storm of shot and shell, consecrated himself to Jesus. He lost an arm; but after he was well, said: "Oh! I would not have it back, if I could, and be as I was before. I have been happy, oh how happy, ever since! It is continued sunshine."

A soldier, after the Perryville battle, being told by his surgeon that he must die in five minutes, exclaimed, "This is the happiest moment of my life! It grows bright, brighter, brighter!" and then entered into the brightness of the Father's glory.

### Efforts Helped Out.

Rev. B. B. Hotchkin, of Pennsylvania, says: "At Falmouth, having got all the wounded who were ready, off in the cars, in an interval of rest I heard singing across the common, and was attracted towards it. I found a circle of men seated in the edge of the woods, singing a hymn, and others gathering around. They sang two verses, and then were at fault. I repeated the verse, and they sang, and so on through the hymn. I then said, 'You have sung sweetly; shall we have a prayer?' 'Yes, yes!' all around. I prayed; and then we had a very interesting meeting, and an interested audience.

"At another time I saw a party of soldiers going out to bury the dead. I followed. They were about to put nine bodies, wrapped in their blankets, into a trench, and cover them up. I said, 'Boys, you ought not to bury these men like dogs. No, no! Shall we have services?' 'Yes.' The men gathered up, and we had services, and gave them a Christian burial."

### Gospel for the Famishing.

Rev. A. Read, General Superintendent, under date of November 24th, writes:

"I preached yesterday, within a mile of the battle-field of Chantilly, to men who had not heard a sermon for *seven months*. They were from different regiments of cavalry, Virginia, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and were the

advance pickets. Yesterday's service was an event in their history. There were tears in many eyes when we sang

'May I but safely reach my home, my God, my heaven, my all,'

and a solemn stillness during the sermon for forty minutes. They stood exposed to the cold autumn wind in the wild pine woods and listened to the exposition of God's word, and when an officer led in the closing prayer, supplicating with deep emotion that God would bless the special mercies of that day to them, protect their distant loved ones, and bring them all to the eternal Sabbath, never to part, many hearts were touched. We distributed among them tracts, hymn-books, &c., and they received them as eagerly as though they were letters from home.

"Poor men! Noble heroes! Posterity will never fully appreciate all their toil, sacrifice, and blood.

#### **Good Men in the Army Strengthened and Encouraged.**

"At the Balloon hospital, I wrote letters for the men, and read and talked with the wounded. In one of the hospital tents was a man who had often been at the Fulton Street prayer-meeting. He said that when well, he always had prayers in his tent, and should have in his hospital tent as soon as he was well enough.

"Another, I found of the same college with myself, a professor of religion, who had wandered far into error, but the Lord was bringing him back.

"Then, again, came the regimental prayer-meeting. Two of us, candle in hand, amid smoke and darkness, stood with a few others, and sang, and soon quite a crowd assembled, and another pleasant season of worship was enjoyed.

"I believe our visit did the men much good, encouraging and strengthening them, especially in the hospital. They seemed unable to express fully their thanks and gladness. I do believe, the seed sown will not all fall by the wayside, or be choked by thorns."

#### **Desire for Reading Matter.**

Rev. John J. Pomeroy, chaplain 3d Penna. Reserves, writes, Dec. 31st, 1862:

"Last week I determined to find reading matter for my men.

I rode fourteen miles to Acquia Creek Landing; found none there. Was told the Christian Commission had a committee at Hope's Landing. I went then five miles above; found none of the Commission there; returned to Acquia, and learned that the depot of the Commission was at Falmouth Station. Last Saturday, with ambulances following me, I started for Falmouth Station, where I found your gentlemanly and energetic agent, Mr. Horace J. Smith. He packed me a box of supplies, gifts forwarded by generous Christian hearts, for our sick in the hospitals. I was also furnished with 240 Testaments, a bundle of American Messengers, and tracts. I started for our camp with this precious load, as proud as if I had captured a whole supply train from the enemy. If those of you at home had witnessed the manner in which these favors were received by our men, you would have fresh encouragement to go on in your noble work. I thank God for the establishment of the Christian Commission."

Mr. Shearer says: "Chaplain Brown, Roundhead regiment, came to the tents of the Commission at Falmouth, and said he had received some small books, tracts and papers the day before, and wanted to pay for them. I was surprised. He declared that the men were willing to pay, and if not, he was. He compelled me to accept pay, and insisted upon putting into my hands an additional sum for fifty hymn-books to be sent to him.

"There was a regiment at Falmouth, known as 'Mud Larks,' and 'Forty Thieves.' One member of it, who was trying to lead a Christian life, carried two Testaments, one in his pocket and one in his knapsack—one to read and one to lend. Speaking to one of our delegates of the Testament, he said, 'Even the "Forty Thieves" have begun to read it. I am often asked for the loan of mine.'"

Rev. F. N. Peloubet, of Oakham, Mass., says: "I have always had a deal of pity for tract distributors—poor martyrs! with the whole world for their inquisition, and refusals, and scorn, and indifference for their instruments of torture, who

' Moil and toil till evening gray,  
At thankless work, for scanty pay.'

But in the army I have learned a 'new song.' I have seen men hungry for reading, hungry as if they had been more than the

five days in a moral 'Starvation Valley,' without even the five hardtacks for the five days. I have seen men look earnestly pleading with their eyes 'give me one grain of corn, brother,' as they saw little tracts given to those near them; I have seen them gather around the ambulance whence we were distributing Messengers, old and new—tracts, old religious papers, hymn-books, and some periodicals—pressing eagerly for a drop of the blessing.

"Everywhere men are ready and waiting—the religious paper neglected at home is read here—the tract, scorned and wasted at home, is grasped eagerly here with a 'thank you.' We do not know in our pleasant towns, with reading as common almost as air, what it is to hunger and thirst for something to read. Now is the time to pour forth our good *religious reading*. Not that written for the soldier in particular, but that written for the *human soul*. The soldiers love to see the *citizen's dress* in their reading as well as on their friends. What *we* like to read, *they* like to read. After some prayer-meetings in a regimental hospital, there was much gratitude expressed; they were glad we came and prayed with them; they were glad to see men fresh from home, free from all the trappings of war, to converse with, and pray with and talk to, as in our parishes at home. And it is much the same with reading."

### A "Gift Most Opportune."

"CAMP IN THE FIELD, near 'White Oak Church,' Va., Jan. 12th, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"On Saturday last, I was visited by an agent of the Christian Commission of the Young Men's Christian Associations, who kindly gave me for distribution in this regiment, about forty English and fifteen German Testaments, about fifty Soldier's Hymns, and some other religious reading matter.

"This gift was most opportune; for I have been besieged at times during the last two months with commendable violence for religious reading by the different officers and men of our regiment, but it was painful to be obliged to say, 'I have none.'

"Yesterday morning, after I had distributed the mail to the orderly sergeants for their various companies, I requested them to notify three companies, that after morning inspection I would

distribute Testaments and other religious reading to them. The men came, and I gave all away as judiciously as I could in the space of half an hour. The men were thankful, and on their behalf, I tender through you our thanks to the noble Society you represent as Chairman, for these very timely gifts.

"I sincerely pray God to bless you in your noble efforts to promote the spiritual welfare of the officers and soldiers of our army, and specially ask your prayers, that God would pour down His richest blessings on the labors of the chaplains of the army.

"Very respectfully,

"N. W. CAMP, D.D.,

Chaplain 4th Regt. N. J. V., 1st N. J. Brigade, Brooke's  
Division, Maj. Gen. Franklin's Left Grand Division  
of the Army of the Potomac.

"GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,  
Chairman, &c., &c."

### **Good Effects of Religious Reading.**

Mr. Sloane writes: "Said a man who had lost a limb and been in the hospital three months, to me one day, 'I like to read those books you bring us. Before I came to the war I didn't believe in the Bible, but I have very different views now. After reading some of the books you gave us, I got to reading the Testament, and I know now it is God's own book;' and he afterwards frequently asked me to have prayers in his tent.

Another young man, severely wounded, attributed his first serious thoughts and awakened conscience to some tracts I left with him. He was recovering when I left, and hopes to live a Christian life.

### **One Tract.**

"At Fortress Monroe, Rev. A. Simpson gave out a few tracts that came in a box of stores. One entitled, 'Can you die tranquil?' fell into the hands of a convalescent. He came to me and asked, 'Was it you who left those tracts for us to read?' 'Yes.' Then with tears rolling down his cheeks, he asked me to come and talk to him. I sat down by him and pointed him to Jesus."

Dr. Charles E. Cady, Assistant Surgeon 138th Regt. P. V., in charge of Simpson Hospital, Relay House, Md., writes:

"Many of our inmates are close Biblical students and most de-

voted Christians, and their influence is so keenly felt, that a profane word is not to be heard in any ward. Such evidences of the Christian influence is cheering to witness."

Another surgeon says, "The good, interesting reading matter given to our men in the hospital, does them more good than our medicines by its cheering influence."

### Results.

Rev. W. E. Boardman, writing from Alexandria, speaking of an address of Rev. M. C. Auley, says:

"He gave special attention to profanity in the army, and the next day we heard of two captains who, before dismissing their men, gave peremptory orders that there must be no more swearing in their companies. One of the men, with more muscle than grace and more determination than suavity, told his men that the first man of his company who should utter an oath in his presence, he would knock down, and the first man who should hear him, the captain, utter an oath, was at liberty to knock him down.

"A colonel of a Massachusetts regiment was addicted to this habit. The chaplain had often spoken to him with little effect, and finally preached on profanity to two full regiments on Sunday. After the sermon, the colonel addressed the regiment, and nobly said, 'The chaplain had done his duty, and I will do mine. I have been guilty of profanity. I hope I have not injured any of you by it. If I have, I am sorry. I will do so no more. Let us altogether put an end to swearing in the regiment.'"

### The Bible before Comforts.

The 102d Pennsylvania Regiment had a good chaplain, and never intermitted its evening prayers, even during the terrible battles before Richmond, having the services sometimes amid the roar of cannon and standing mid-leg deep in mud and water. They had also Bible classes in each company. They came out of those battles having lost all their knapsacks and Bibles and Testaments.

When Gen. McClellan left Harrison's Landing, this regiment, six hundred and twenty-five strong, had the post of honor, the rearguard.



On the morning they left, Rev. Dr. Patterson, a delegate of the Commission, who was there distributing stores and books, and caring for the men, preached to this regiment. At the close of the services, he asked them, "Is there anything I can give you?" Though destitute of all personal comforts, and knowing Dr. P. had many such to distribute, they said, "We have no Bibles and Testaments. We would like ten Bibles for our Bible class teachers, and three hundred Testaments for the men, as we find it hard work to study the Bible without Bibles to study."

### **A Bible saves Life.**

C. S. Griffith, Esq., writes: "Just before the engagement at Williamsburg, a young soldier from Pennsylvania, to disencumber himself, was about to throw away his Bible, when a companion said to him, 'You do not know when you may need it.' He returned it to his pocket, and very soon after received a shot which went through the Bible until it came to this verse, 'But none of these things move me: neither count I my life dear unto myself, so I might finish my course with joy.' The Confederate who fired the shot was afterwards taken prisoner, heard the circumstance, and offered twenty-five dollars for the Bible, but the young soldier could not be induced to part with the precious shield which had saved his life, and we have every reason to conclude, from the great interest he has since manifested in studying its precious promises, that it will work out for him a happy life hereafter."

### **The Dying Christian Comforted.**

After the battle of Fair Oaks, as Mr. Sloane was about lying down on the floor of the hospital, worn and weary with his day's labor, a surgeon asked him to visit a lieutenant, who was in a separate tent apart from others, because his wounds were so offensive, he having lain on the battle-field some forty-eight hours, and who was near his end. Mr. Sloane at once arose and entered the tent. The man did not notice his entrance, and seemed beyond reach, and did not at first respond to questions, but at the name of Christ, that dear name, he revived, and responded warmly to the grasp of the hand. He proved to be a superin-

tendent of a Sabbath-school, from New York State, who was dying in the full hope of a blessed immortality. Mr. S. commenced and prayed with him. What a joy to the dying Christian to have a brother's support and sympathy so unexpectedly as he was entering the dark valley; and what a privilege to be enabled thus to comfort one whom Jesus loved!"

#### **Cheering News from Home to a Sufferer in the Hospital.**

Rev. Dr. Patterson writes: "I have just returned from Baltimore, Annapolis, and Washington, where I have enjoyed opportunities long to be remembered, of presenting Christ to suffering men, of praying by the bedsides of the dying, and of cheering the hearts of suffering Christians. The last man I shook hands with in Trinity Hospital said that, during his illness, he had received a letter from some of his Sabbath-school scholars at home, informing him of their conversion, and said he, 'The delirium of the fever passed away, and my soul has been filled with peace and thankfulness for the goodness of God ever since.' Another poor dying man, unable to speak or hear, to whom I made a sign proposing to kneel down and pray, assented, gazed at me most piercingly and anxiously as I prayed beside him, and when I took his hand, held me as if unwilling to let me go. There is a solemn eloquence in these looks and gestures of the dying, indescribably affecting. Several young men promised me they would at once begin to pray, and I have good reason to believe they have not prayed in vain."

#### **Good Effect of Articles Distributed.**

Rev. J. O. Sloane writes from General McClellan's army on the Peninsula:

"You can have no conception of the amount of relief afforded by the contents of the boxes sent to us. The soldiers, too, feel that they are not forgotten; that those at home are thinking about them and anxious to relieve them. Many a poor sinking man has been raised up, through the blessing of God, by the nourishing food and delicacies which we have been enabled to give them.

"About four days since, we visited some tents where two hun-

dred sick were gathered in the edge of a pine woods. We found two men very sick from typhoid fever in a small tent off by themselves. One was delirious, and both seemed not far from death. They were lying upon the ground with nothing but their overcoats under them. We washed them and put on clean clothes, furnished by friends at the North, and gave them some nourishing food. To-day I was greatly surprised to find them much improved, and the surgeon said they would both recover. This is only one instance out of many of the same kind."

#### **Germans Accessible.**

Rev. William E. Boardman says of the hospital in Claryville, Cumberland:

"Of its six hundred and eleven inmates, some are from different States and from many divisions of the army, but the striking feature is German. And there are so many from Blenker's Division that they call it 'Blenker's Rearguard.' A perfect famine of all German literature seems to have been created by them. Nothing is in such demand as German papers, tracts, and books. The good chaplain says that no faces light up at his approach like the faces of 'Blenker's Rearguard,' especially if he goes with German papers or tracts in his hands. Hymn-books, also, are greatly needed to aid them in their worship, such as the Soldier's Union Hymn-book."

#### **All Connected with the Army Accessible to Religious Influence.**

Rev. C. Cushing, of North Brookfield, Mass., writes under date, January 8th:

"On board of the boat upon which two other delegates and myself went from Washington to Falmouth, was a gang of men, who were going to Acquia Creek to work for the Government. They were of that class of men known as 'Dead Rabbits,' and their appearance and language were such that we did not dare to sleep all at a time, as we had some stores along with us. So two of us slept while the other watched.

"Towards morning these men, being cold and hungry, began to give utterance to their feelings in such vile and blasphemous language as I never before heard. They seemed to vie with each other in inventing expressions of blasphemy and wickedness, so

that it seemed to us that we were near the mouth of hell. Their commander was a leader in this.

"When they were weary of this, we took out our Soldier's Hymn-book, and began by singing the National songs in it, which attracted their attention, and they joined in them. We then sang some familiar revival hymns, and they still joined. We then said, 'You have had your turn in talking, have you any objection to our having a prayer-meeting?' Their leader assented, and after some remarks prayer was offered. What was our surprise to see those men rise and reverently uncover their heads during prayer.

"After the services were closed, the leader came and apologized for their conduct, and begged us to give him some of those hymn-books, as he thought it would do them good, saying their hearts were not so hard as their language would indicate. We gave him some, and cannot but hope good will result.

"I was suddenly called home by telegraph to attend the funeral of my own dear mother. I was gone eleven days, and did not have my clothes off, but devoted myself day and night to alleviate the sufferings of the soldiers. I travelled nearly one thousand miles, and the expenses to the Christian Commission for travelling expenses, board, lodgings, &c., was fifteen dollars and forty-seven cents;\* surely not an extravagant charity."

### Home Influence Revived.

A delegate writes:

"I remember the case of a young man from Maine. He came to my tent to get me to write a letter for him. He had been very sick, and was then just able to walk. We talked for some time on various matters, when I asked him about his home and friends there. He seemed happy to talk about it. He told me his parents were Christians, and they had trained him up in the right way, but he had departed from it in the army.

"I said: 'But have you not prayed to God to help you? Your father and mother are praying for you, and yet you never pray for yourself.' He became much affected, and said, 'It is too

\* Nine dollars and twenty-five cents of this was for fare on roads which now pass our delegates free.

true; they are constantly praying for me. Oh, I wish you could see the letters they write to me. I must attend to this matter, for I feel unhappy every time I read one of their letters, that I am not what they wish and are praying that I may be.' His heart seemed too full to allow him to say more, and he hastened away. I saw him afterwards, and I think he has sought an interest in Jesus' blood, and with those friends at home, who have prayed for him, become an heir of heaven."

### Comfort to Friends at Home.

"ALBANY, December 28th, 1862.

"TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

"Dear Friends: I take this opportunity of offering you my many thanks for your kindness shown to my brother William Montgomery, the young man whom you met last Sabbath at Acquia Creek, and to whom, I doubt not, you paid kind attention. You have the grateful thanks of his afflicted parents and brother and sisters, and may God bless you for it; not only for this, but for your many other deeds of kindness towards the poor sick and wounded soldiers. My brother died three hours after reaching Washington in Island Hall Hospital. He was buried at the Soldier's Home.

"Will any one please tell me, if you know, what were his feelings with regard to death, as I have no doubt but that some of you spoke to him on the subject, and pointed him to the Savior. Oh, for one ray of hope with regard to the welfare of his soul.

"May God bless you in your labor of love.

"Very respectfully yours,

"MARY MONTGOMERY."

Happily they had abundant testimony to send to his sister that he died in the triumphs of the Christian's hope.

### Paper and Envelopes.

One of the most grateful articles for the soldiers is a sheet of paper and an envelope. Often they are not able to write home for want of them. All the delegates bear testimony to this. A few expressions we give.

Mr. Shearer says: "Oh, how thankfully they received them.

Would that friends at home could have seen their glad faces as we gave them paper and envelopes, and heard their many thanks as they said: 'Now I will write to my wife.' 'This is what I have long waited for.' 'I have not been paid off for eight months; I could not buy; this comes just right.' "

Rev. B. H. Creaver says: "Nothing is received with more eagerness and gratitude than paper, envelopes, and pens."

#### **A Rebel Captain, from Alabama,**

Badly wounded and kindly cared for by Rev. Mr. Sloane, finally said: "I never did see any reason for our rebellion. I felt no oppression from the Government, and I am here to-day, one of many, suffering with wounds on account of our folly and crime."

Another,

#### **A North Carolina Soldier,**

Brought in from Fair Oaks, saw he must die. His wounds were too offensive to allow him to remain with the others. A separate tent and special nurse were provided, and every want supplied. Mr. Sloane and the good surgeon attending sought to prepare him for death. The hour came. They were by his side. He asked to have his will written.

He gave some memento to each of his children, with messages of love. Then, in answer to the question whether he felt alarmed in view of death, he said "No! I trust God has pardoned all my sins, and will save me for Christ's sake. My guilt is great. I have sinned very much in taking up arms against the Government, but I trust God has forgiven all." His end was peaceful.

#### **New Distributers.**

One scene on the Mississippi may suffice to call attention distinctly to an important feature of the great work of the Commission,—the distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and religious books, tracts, and papers.

Three valuable boxes were sent forward last fall, to Evansville, Indiana, and reshipped from there to Memphis, Tennessee, soon after the stars and stripes were flung to the breeze over it. On their way, the guerillas captured the steamboat on which they

were shipped. They knocked open one of the boxes, and finding in it soldiers' books and tracts, they made an orderly distribution of all in that box to their own men, supplying them abundantly, and then sent the other two boxes on their way to Memphis, which they reached in safety, and were most timely and welcome, as will be seen by the following letter from Rev. Dr. Grundy, the heroic Union pastor at Memphis, who stood the fire, and came out without the smell of it upon him.

“MEMPHIS, October 26, 1862.

“GEO. H. STUART.

“MY DEAR BROTHER: Through you we have received a valuable present for the army here, sent by the Christian Commission. As soon as it was known that they had come, the soldiers sought the books with eager and grateful avidity; and many begged for more, and said, when disappointed, ‘Our regiment ought to have had some of them.’

“Providentially, two brethren, Rev. Mr. Wood, of the American Tract Society, and Rev. Mr. Emory, pastor at Quincy, delegates of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, St. Louis, came along on Saturday, following up your kindness. They are the men for the work, and are just in time. The soldiers received them as messengers of mercy.

“May the Lord bless you in your good work, and save our bleeding country from utter ruin.”

As a distributing agency in the army, the Christian Commission acts in harmony with the American Bible Society, the American Tract Societies of New York and Boston, and the various other Societies and Boards of Publication; and whilst they generously aid its work by grants, it affords them an agency for safe, certain, and wise distribution in its great field, difficult of access by others.

#### **Our “Commission” Known, Recognized, and Valued.**

J. B. D., of Camden, New York, writes from Antietam: “I found the ‘commission’ from the Christian Commission, to be an ‘open sesame,’ with which I entered the lines of our armies at all points, and which secured me all desirable facilities in prosecuting the object of my mission.”

**Patience and Patriotism of Men.**

The same person writes: "The patience and fortitude with which these noble fellows endure their privations and sufferings, are truly marvellous. From painful wounds and uncomfortable positions, many of them spend sleepless nights; but their suffering is in silence. You hear no audible expression. Indeed, I found occasion, several times, to chide them for not making known their condition, when they had an opportunity to do so. Their patriotism also was intense.

"An interesting young man, the son of a minister, when dying, said: 'Tell father, that though life is to me very precious, I yield it up cheerfully for my country.' And among all the multitudes I saw, I heard no expression of regret that they had entered the army; but, on the other hand, it was no uncommon thing to hear them express a determination to join their regiments, as soon as they should sufficiently recover to do so."

**Certificate of Surgeons of the Army of the Potomac, as to the  
Practical Efficiency of the Commission.**

We, the undersigned, having been connected with the Medical Department at Yorktown, for the past month, feel it to be a duty and privilege to acknowledge, that the assistance rendered us by the Christian Commission, acting through the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, and the Ladies' Aid Society, which have unitedly and harmoniously operated at this point, has been of the most reliable character.

The poor soldier must have been deprived of many a delicacy, as well as the proper nutritious food, and much of the best stimulants, but for their prompt and free contributions.

We feel like saying, "May the Lord reward them, for their work and labor of love."

J. Q. A. MCCOLLESTER,  
Groton, Mass.

J. H. MORSE, M.D.,  
Massachusetts.

WM. D. LAMB, M.D.,  
Lawrence, Mass.

GEO. C. STAEBSLING,  
Surgeon 52d New York Vol's.

J. A. HOWE, M.D.,  
Newburyport, Mass.

P. B. BALCH,  
Ass't Surgeon 18th N. York Vol's.

Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D.D., of Philadelphia, writes thus of a visit to Gen. McClellan, at Antietam: "I visited, in company with three other brethren of our party, the headquarters of



Gen. McClellan. He was just starting out with his staff, but stopped for an introduction to us, as clergymen and delegates of the Christian Commission. After replying to our congratulations and kind wishes, he avowed his sincere appreciation of our labors; thanked us and the Commission for the services rendered; and said, that whatever was done for his soldiers, was done for himself."

Dr. Nordquist, Medical Director of the 1st Army Corps, said he desired to thank the Commission for what they had done to relieve his men; that their services were appreciated by himself, as well as by the sufferers.

Mr. Shearer met an old schoolmate, who said: "Having heard of the Christian Commission, I rode ten miles from camp, to find some one connected with it, but failed. Next day I rode ten miles in a different direction, and succeeded."

Mr. Ogden writes from Fortress Monroe: "The volunteer surgeons say, that but for the stimulants from the Christian Commission, they would have lost many lives by wounds and typhoid fever, which have been saved, and I know they speak the truth.

"I wish you could hear the poor fellows emphasize as they thank you and bless you. You would be grateful to God that He has permitted you to do so much.

"An officer said to Mr. Shearer, at Falmouth, 'I told the members of the Commission at Falmouth, their Christianity was practical, and such as would meet a sure reward in heaven.'

### Liberality.

A workman who was at a meeting held in Philadelphia, for the Commission, called the next day on the chairman, with seventy-five dollars, being the day's wages of each man in the establishment in which he worked.

A servant girl in Philadelphia, who has ninety-one dollars wages for last year, gave twenty-five dollars to the Commission.

The following letter was received by the agent of the Boston Army Committee:

"NORTH READING, Sept. 1862.

"MR. ROWLAND.

"DEAR SIR: Please accept of the widow's mite, who is about

eighty years old. I send a barrel of good reading, books, tracts, and pamphlets of various kinds, to amuse and instruct our poor sick and wounded soldiers; also, shirts, pocket-handkerchiefs, bandages, &c., and numerous articles of refreshments suitable for hospitals. Please send them to the most needy.

M. C.

"P.S. I have not money to pay the freight; how I wish I had; how freely would I do it."

A woman whose name is concealed, sent us fifty dollars first, then one hundred dollars, then one hundred and fifty dollars, then two hundred dollars, and then one hundred dollars. Five hundred dollars came from a gentleman in England, who had seen an account of the Commission in print. A lady whose country-seat, near Belfast, Ireland, is named *Mount Vernon*, with her neighbors, made up and sent a box of religious reading matter. At the great meeting in Boston, recently held, a collection, amounting to more than three thousand dollars, was taken; and about ten thousand dollars given unsolicited in New York, within a few days after the great meeting there.

With little solicitation, funds and stores have come in upon us, as our plans and work have become known, from those who love their country and the souls of its brave defenders.

#### Appeals from the Field.

From all parts of the field, from all ranks of officers, from good men of all denominations of Christians, and even from those who are not members of any church, appeals come from day to day to the Commission, for men of the right stamp for chaplains, and for religious reading matter of the right kind for soldiers.

The following letters from two of our Generals in the field—one in the East, and the other in the West—are all we have space for.

#### Letter from General Birney.

"HEADQUARTERS, THIRD CORPS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
CAMP, February 8, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR: I have received your favor, and answer it with pleasure. In this command there are but few chaplains. Most of them have resigned and gone home. But few of the

right sort of men, physically and mentally adapted to the work, have been sent us.

"Men like the Rev. Mr. Shinn, of my old regiment, the 23d Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, have been few. He preached but little, and was unobtrusive; but on every battle-field, during the whistling of bullets and scream of shell, he was by the side of the wounded, and many a poor fellow in the hospital was grateful for his Christian charities. During camp life, the soldiers saw him working faithfully, during storm and sunshine, with the mail, bringing and sending home messages.

"God bless him, is the prayer of every soldier of that regiment, and myself, as having selected him.

"There are plenty of vacancies, if you will send and recommend such active men; not the wretched broken-down men that often seek refuge in an army chaplaincy. Though not a church-member, you will have my active co-operation to plant such men as you may select, in my old division.

"Yours, with respect,

"D. B. BIRNEY,

Brigadier General.

"GEO. H. STUART, Esq."

### Two Letters from General Fisk.

"HEADQUARTERS, SECOND BRIGADE, U. S. VOLUNTEERS,

"HELENA, ARK., Feb. 16, 1863.

"MY DEAR BROTHER BOARDMAN: I greet you with a God bless you, from the sunset side of the Mississippi, 'way down south, in Dixie.'

"I am just in receipt of the programme of exercises of our Commission's anniversary, on the 29th ult., at the American Academy of Music, in the city of Brotherly Love. I wish I could have been with you, and told you our *necessities*, based upon my own experience and observation on the field. Oh, how the soldiers are stretching out their hands for religious reading! I assure you that my hands, head, and heart find full employment in my new field of labor. I devote all the hours I can to the religious training of my men. I preach to them on the Sabbath; I bow with them in prayer in their quarters; I try to encourage the doubting, bring back the wanderer, and call the

sinner to a proper recognition of and obedience to the great Captain of our salvation. Oh, for more Christian courage in the army! If every man who had named the name of Jesus at home, would have the courage to stand by the banner of the cross while in the army, it would do much to stem the tide of iniquity that floods our camps.

"I would that every Christian in the land, who has an acquaintance, son, brother, husband or father in the army, would write them on this subject of Christian courage,—give them 'line upon line.'

"I am much in want of Testaments, hymn-books, cards, tracts, small books, and papers. Can you send me a large box? Adams' Express has an agency at this point, and you can doubtless send them free of charge. I wish you would have five thousand hymn-books put up for me, with the card on the cover printed, 'Presented to ———, of Fisk's Brigade, by the Christian Commission,' &c.

"All this gives value to the little book, and leads the men to be more careful in keeping their books clean.

"I would like one thousand of the 'Soldier's Prayer-book,' published by the Protestant Episcopal Book Society, 1224 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia; five thousand 'Roll Call,' a small tract, published at the same institution; and also their card of 'Promise,' 'Gospel Truth,' &c. I have one regiment mostly Episcopalian. You cannot send me too much. I will try and be a living, acting, fighting member of the Commission.

"I have never yet seen your plan for organizing Christian Unions or Societies in the regiments. Please send me a few copies. Direct mail or packages to 'Brigadier General Clinton B. Fisk, care Rev. I. G. Forman, Helena, Arkansas.'

"Remember me with much love to Brother Stuart. Pray for me.

"Excuse this disjointed written-in-the-field scrawl.

"Yours faithfully, in Christian bonds,

"CLINTON B. FISK."

"HELENA, ARK., Feb. 20, 1863.

"MY DEAR BROTHER STUART: Your notice to me, of the meeting of the Christian Commission at Philadelphia, on the

28th ult., and our anniversary meeting, to be held on the evening of the 29th ult., has this day reached me, after travelling around on my track for one month.

"It would have been a source of great joy to me to have been with you on both of these interesting occasions; but I celebrated the anniversary eve in my saddle, along the lines, in front of the enemy. God be with you in your labor of love. How much we are wanting the power of the Christian religion in the army! Push on the work. I will cheerfully represent our Commission in the field. I bring your labors before my command each Sabbath-day. I conduct my own religious services, and we have most blessed meetings. I wrote Brother Boardman at length, a day or two since, telling him of my wants. I know he will respond to the utmost. There is great destitution of all religious matter in the Western army. The tide flows eastward. Give us the best books you can.

"We are getting on slowly with the fighting department; but success is certain. *We shall conquer this rebellion.* We shall have a peace established in righteousness and justice. The Republic will live!

'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.'

"Yours, faithfully,

"CLINTON B. FISK,

"Brigadier General of Volunteers."

With these letters, illustrating the urgent and universal wants of the field, we must close our account of the work of the Commission at the seat of war. It remains now to give brief sketches of the work of the various Young Men's Christian Associations, and of our District Committees, in their own various localities, in co-operation with the Commission.

#### THE BOSTON ARMY COMMITTEE,

With its many coadjutors, has been most abundant in labors. They have not only accomplished a large and successful work at home, but they have been a centre of influence for all New England; holding public meetings, circulating information concerning our work, establishing agencies and army committees in a large number of towns and cities.

This committee has been constantly active in collecting and forwarding to the armies of the nation, supplies of stores and reading matter. More than seven hundred packages have been secured through their efforts, and as the work of the Commission becomes more widely known, this source of supply is growing, like the others, daily more abundant.

Quite a number of our delegates have come from this region, visiting and ministering to the sufferers on every battle-field and in every camp.

In the work at home, they have employed a missionary for a portion of the labor in the hospitals.

Six hundred and thirteen meetings for prayer and conference have been held by members of the Young Men's Christian Association, on board the U. S. receiving ship Ohio, where from time to time, as they have been recruited, have been gathered a large portion of the seamen now defending the honor of our flag on the ocean. Here they have met—Christian young men,—in those crowded meetings, far down below the water-line; here responded to the call of the Gospel, and found Jesus a Savior. These brave tars are standing up for Jesus on all seas, and are conducting prayer-meetings on board most of our national vessels, from which they often hear cheering reports. There has been an almost uninterrupted revival on board the Ohio for more than a year, and the work on that ship gives abundant evidence that the hearts of the sons of the ocean are peculiarly open to the Gospel when brought to them with words and acts of kindness and sympathy.

In this work, thousands of Bibles and Testaments, two thousand eight hundred religious books, three hundred and fifty prayer-books, ten thousand religious papers, one hundred and eighty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-six pages of tracts, and two thousand copies of the Soldier's and Sailor's hymn-books have been distributed.

This committee has held eight public meetings in Boston and twenty-eight in various parts of New England, to arouse public interest in our work. They have (in addition to four thousand six hundred and five dollars sent to the Central Office), expended two thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven dollars and seventy-four cents in their home-work.

**NEW YORK.**

After long delay from unforeseen obstacles, a committee in every way worthy of the great City of New York, and of our great work for the nation, its heroes, and our Divine Master, has been fully organized.

The vigor, enterprise, and comprehensiveness of effort and plan, evinced by their movements in this the very infancy of their progress, give ample promise of great and good things to come.

*As a field of operations, they take,*

1. The vessels of war fitted out in this harbor, with their transports, and the squadrons receiving their supplies from here ; that is, the bulk of our entire naval force.

2. The forts, camps, and naval or military hospitals in New York and its vicinity not otherwise cared for.

3. The armies, and military or naval hospitals on the Atlantic coast,—at the mouth of the Chesapeake, in the sounds of North Carolina, the islands of South Carolina and Georgia, the mainland and islands of Florida and Alabama, and within the military department of the Gulf of Mexico.

The aggregate number of sailors and soldiers embraced within these limits, is estimated at 150,000, of whom not far from one-tenth are in hospitals.

Besides caring for this immense interest, the Committee sustain a cordial auxiliary relation to the General Commission in Philadelphia, whose operations cover all the remaining army departments ; and they hope to furnish men and means in liberal aid of the national enterprise.

*As a field of supply,* New York, Connecticut, and Eastern New Jersey have been assigned to them.

**Meeting of the Clergy of New York and Brooklyn.**

The plans of the Committee having been matured and publicly announced, the clergy were invited to meet in Clinton Hall, January 28th, 1863, to consider and act upon them. The Rev. William Adams, D.D., was in the Chair, and the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D., Secretary. After the unfolding of the enterprise by the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission, and by the Rev. Alexander Reed, of Pennsylvania, a returned delegate, a

Committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. Drs. Williams, Hitchcock, Hutton, Holdich, Taylor, and Smith, who reported, and the meeting unanimously adopted the following

### Resolutions.

*Resolved*, That the aims and labors of the Christian Commission eminently commend themselves to the patriotism and Christianity of our country; and that engaged as the nation now is, in a fearful strife for the vindication and perpetuity of its own unity and life, the brave men of our army and navy, who have in this behalf "taken their lives in their hands," are, when beaten down by exhaustion, disease, or battle, or when about to peril themselves "on the high places of the field," the last class whom a Christian nation should leave anywhere, or in any degree to complain, "No man careth for my soul."

*Resolved*, That while we gratefully recognize the provision made by the Government for chaplaincies, and its acknowledgment of the rights of the Christian Sabbath, and while we admire and sustain the extended and effective labors of the Sanitary Commission, all such action remains imperfect and ineffective, except as sustained and supplemented by the churches; that our country has in its past history, been summoned by the providence of God, to prove before other people of the earth, how a nation without standing armies might uphold order and security, and how churches without a state endowment, might liberally maintain and widely diffuse religion; and that, in the new emergencies of this vast war, God calls us to the yet loftier task of proving before all gainsayers how an improvised army and an improvised navy may effectually assert for a republic its national rights and its energetic life; and how too, in such a time, the voluntary and unsalaried exertions of Christian zeal can, under God's blessing, send through all the rifts and chasms opened by this conflict, the influences of a warm, prompt, and loving charity.

*Resolved*, That to give new power to our valiant champions, and to make them an effective moral police amid these national convulsions, they need and have full right to expect that they should be followed, as far as may be, to the camp, the deck, and hospital, by the influences, remembrances, and sympathies of



the homes and the sanctuaries from which they have gone forth, and which some of them may never be permitted to revisit ; and that thus to seek to render our soldiers and sailors yet more and more intelligent, resolute, conscientious, and devout, is a work demanded alike by gratitude, humanity, patriotism, and religion ; and that champions so followed and sustained, are the more likely to return as law-abiding citizens and principled patriots, to the quiet pursuits of home, and the orderly administration of the republic.

*Resolved*, That heavy as are the drafts made on the resources and incomes of the people, it is by such sacrifices resolutely encountered, that God has trained nations for enduring freedom ; and that mere material prosperity, unchecked and untasked, has often ripened a people for irremediable ruin ; that infinite wisdom, in the symbols of that inspired dream by which it analyzed prophetically to the Chaldean king, the causes of the ruin of the world's old empires, showed a head of gold toppling to inevitable overthrow, because supported on feet of incongruous and unassimilated iron and clay, a lesson remaining true for all after times ; and that a Christian republic must educate, humanize, and evangelize its population into moral sympathy and brotherhood, as the indispensable precedent condition for the retention of its life and powers ; that wealth finds its sweetest uses and its surest safeguards in such beneficent activity, and knowledge its happiest honors in such diffusion of its treasures, and faith and love so busied, find in Providence unexpected resources and an invincible ally ; but that to hope to build up a Christian state in this nineteenth Christian century, by steadying the power of the few on the ignorance, oppression, venality, and corruption of the many, is to hope that the head of gold may on our Western shores, find in the mingled but discordant iron and clay, a steadfastness which God has always and everywhere denied to such an experiment ; and that its success here could be hoped only by its proving itself able to erase principles that God has deeply and repeatedly graven upon the history of the nations, and only by its outwitting and outworking the retributions of a Providence, that has never yet been seen to slumber.

*Resolved*, That we urge, therefore, most heartily upon all our churches, that their prayers and alms and efforts be given with-

out stint to the work so wisely and effectually commenced by the Christian Commission.

**The Great Public Meeting of the Commission in the Academy of Music. Lieutenant-General Scott in the Chair. Major-General Burnside present.**

One of the most impressive public meetings in behalf of a Christian cause, was held on Sabbath evening, February 9th, in the Academy of Music. That spacious edifice was crowded to its utmost capacity, and thousands could not gain admittance. It was estimated that a thousand persons stood the entire evening in the aisles and lobbies of the building. On the spacious platform were grouped scores of the clergy, military officers, eminent jurists, merchants, and public men. On the right and left of the Chair sat ex-Governor Morgan, of New York, General Anderson, Judges Allen and Woodruff of the Supreme Court, and other distinguished citizens.

Mr. William E. Dodge reminded the audience that it was a Christian occasion that had assembled them on the Lord's day, and suggested that any demonstrations of respect for the venerable presiding officer of the evening, or others, should be made by the silent rising of the assembly. When the majestic form of General Scott appeared, the vast congregation arose in solemn stillness,—an unprecedented act of blended respect for a great chieftain, and of reverence for the King of kings. The simple spectacle was sublime. There was a similar demonstration when General Burnside entered.

General Scott silently bowed his acknowledgments for this expression of Christian respect, and on assuming the chair, said:

“FELLOW-CITIZENS: The honor done me on this occasion, in calling me to occupy this Chair upon an occasion of so much importance and worth, gladdens the heart of an old soldier, and fills him with gratitude and love. New York has sent out her thousands upon thousands of brave sons, to fight the battles of our Constitution and Union, and has not forgot them in the field, or upon their return home. Her care has been incessant. She has given them every aid, has cared for their families, and watched over the wounded, sick, lame, and halt upon their return.

The objects of this Association will be explained to you by my colleague in the duties of the Chair, more fully than I shall attempt upon the occasion. With such a cause, that God will prosper our efforts and give us triumph, no Christian man can doubt.

After prayer by Rev. Dr. Van Norman, addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Tyng, Rev. Alexander Reed, Col. McKean, M. C., Rev. Mr. Ganse, Major-General Burnside, U. S. A., Rev. Mr. Duryea, and George H. Stuart, Esq., and the meeting closed by the benediction, pronounced by Rev. Dr. Shedd.

The addresses were varied, impressive, eloquent, and powerful. Enthusiasm rose to the end; the whole city and country felt the force of the meeting, and its benefits will extend to all parts of the army, the navy, and nation.

One of the many great and good results already realized is the voluntary, unsolicited contribution of about ten thousand dollars to the treasury of the Committee, which is the earnest of many thousands more.

Encouraged by this vigorous and noble beginning in New York, the Commission, confident of liberal and efficient aid both in men and means, from this newly-opened and ample metropolitan source of supply, feel warranted in entering upon enlarged systematic plans for extending thoroughly and equally throughout all the forces of the Union, the grand benefits of a personal agency, together with the Sacred Scriptures, religious publications, and such stores as may be needed.

### **BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.**

The Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn has been enterprising, active, and efficient in work, amongst the soldiers of the camps and hospitals in their own vicinity, and have done much for the army at the seat of war. Fifteen of their number, in connection with their Army Committee, assisted occasionally by many other members, have given special attention to this work, and three special agents have visited the battle-fields of Roanoke, N. C., Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., and Antietam, Md., with the various camps and hospitals in the region of these battles.

They have also had a missionary agent constantly employed holding meetings, distributing publications, and doing whatever could be done for the benefit of the men in the camps and hospitals of Brooklyn and New York.

Up to January 1st, they had collected and distributed 263 boxes, barrels, &c., of stores, 10,000 bound volumes, 15,000 magazines and pamphlets, 25,000 papers, 100,000 pages of tracts.

The stores and publications distributed are estimated at \$25,000, and the money disbursed amounts to \$3790 41. Twenty meetings have been held in the churches in behalf of the soldiers, and about sixty meetings of various kinds with the men.

### PHILADELPHIA.

The highest praise is due to the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, and their Army Committee, for early activity, unceasing perseverance, unflagging interest, varied enterprise, and abundant labors in army work. Their home field has been almost unbounded, and yet they have given to the Commission the invaluable services of many of their noble men, from counting-room and pulpit, workshop and office, to aid in the greater field of the various scenes of conflict.

The numerous camps in and around the city, large and small, and the vast hospitals within the radius of a few miles from Independence Hall, might have overwhelmed them, to the neglect of all effort for the vast encampments and hospitals along the war belt, east, west, and south; but this home work seems only to have excited them to greater interest in the work abroad.

### The Army Meetings,

Held by them on behalf of the soldiers, are unsurpassed as a series, by any series of meetings known. For more than sixty Sabbath evenings consecutively, up to January 1st, if we except one or two only in the heat of summer, public meetings have been held in churches of all evangelical denominations, in all parts of the city; always full, always interesting, and often thrilling in character, and densely crowded in numbers. And the contributions, though in no case large, have in almost every case been liberal, making in the aggregate a generous sum.

### **Delegates for the Commission.**

For about fifty delegates, one of whom, Rev. Mr. Ladd, fell a martyr to the work, the Christian Commission is in debt to the Philadelphia Association. Of these, others besides the lamented and beloved Ladd, were brought to the borders of the grave by the abundance of their labors, and the terrible ordeal of exposure, privation, and excitement, through which they sought the salvation of our brave men, body and soul. Yet none ever murmured or complained, and many have gone time and again. Such a cause only as this, which combines all that is sacred in the service of God, all that is touching and thrilling in the relief and benefit of man, and all that is noble and heroic in the salvation of our nation in peril, could ever have called pastors from their churches, physicians from their patients, lawyers from their cases, merchants from their customers, and men of all walks from their homes, and home comforts and duties, to go out and sleep on the ground, eat hardtack, drink muddy water, or coffee more muddy, for the pleasure of washing and cleansing muddy, bloody, vermin-covered, infected, wounded, foetid men, and of preaching to them the blessed Jesus, and cheering them from home.

These fifty delegates have gladdened the soldiers by their presence, and words and deeds of love, in all the hospitals, and on all the battle-fields of the Peninsula, of Pope's disastrous campaign, of the Maryland invasion, of the Fredericksburg repulse, and of the Murfreesboro' victory.

In the prosecution of the home work, about two hundred members of the Association have participated, several hundreds of meetings have been held with the soldiers, in hospitals and camps, and fifteen hundred Testaments, twenty-five Bibles, thirty thousand and fifty-four hymn and psalm books, nine thousand seven hundred and eight other books, six hundred thousand pages of tracts, three thousand five hundred magazines, and thirty-eight thousand seven hundred papers have been distributed.

Two features of the home work in Philadelphia deserve special mention. First:

### **Milk Supplied to the Hospitals.**

A supply of milk not having been furnished by Government, the Association, by request of the surgeons, arranged with relia-

ble milkmen for a daily supply, to be left at the hospitals. Up to February 14th, the quantity furnished amounted to forty thousand two hundred and twenty quarts, fifteen hundred of which had been generously contributed by the milkmen.

The other home work alluded to, is

#### **The Record of Pennsylvania Soldiers in Hospitals in and around Philadelphia.**

At the earnest solicitation of the Governor and Surgeon-General of the State of Pennsylvania, the Young Men's Christian Association have undertaken to furnish and keep at the Rooms of the Association, a complete record of all Pennsylvania soldiers in the hospitals in and around the city, to visit them weekly, attend to their wants so far as they may be able, communicate with their friends at home if they desire it, and in fact, to seek to make their condition as comfortable as possible, and at the same time, to benefit them spiritually by religious conversation, gifts of tracts and books, and establishing prayer-meetings among them.

To further this work, they have obtained from the Governor and Surgeon-General, commissions for sixty-one persons, giving them the privilege of visiting all the hospitals, and asking the co-operation of the surgeons in charge to aid in the work. This work is being prosecuted with vigor. The Commissioners meet and report weekly, and a Secretary has been employed, whose whole time is occupied in copying the names, and having general oversight of the Commissioners.

#### **THE BALTIMORE ARMY COMMITTEE,**

Occupying a delicate and difficult position in a community not fully sympathizing with them, have been most active and zealous since the hour of their organization. They have sent out sixty commissioned delegates, who have ministered upon various battle-fields, and in the camps and hospitals at Baltimore, Frederick, Smoketown, Antietam, South Mountain, York, Harper's Ferry, Annapolis, and Annapolis Junction.

In connection with this work they have distributed five hundred and four cases of valuable and timely stores, and expended two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars.

No less than four hundred and ninety persons, male and female, have aided them in their home work, holding (distinct from the chaplain's services) eight hundred and sixty prayer-meetings; distributing *personally* five thousand six hundred Bibles and other books, eighty-five thousand papers, twenty thousand pamphlets, and four million pages of religious tracts. In addition, they have constantly employed two laborious faithful men as missionaries, who have general supervision of this work, and thus accomplished truly great things for the cause of our country and the cause of God. One of these, Rev. Mr. Poerner, a German, has had great success among his countrymen, who have listened with tearful interest to religious instruction from their fellow-German, many of them weeping with joy at hearing the Gospel preached in their own language. Very interesting results have been realized, as the following incidents and statements will show:

At one of the prayer-meetings in a hospital, a young man of fine education arose and declared, that by the influence of the meetings, he had been induced to review his life, and was ashamed he had so long neglected his duties to God. He was determined to lead a religious life, and he should ever thank God for his merciful providence in sending such Christian friends under such strange and unexpected circumstances.

At another meeting a Frenchman arose and said, that in early life he had frequently attended places of worship, "but for many years," said he, "I have not been in any place where there were religious services, until I came into the hospital. When I was getting better of my sickness, I saw others going into the prayer-meeting, and I went from curiosity. There I heard one of my fellow-soldiers tell how happy he had been since he had determined to lead a religious life, and how delightful were his hopes of Heaven and everlasting life, when the cares and troubles of this life should all be past, and he exhorted all his fellow-soldiers to seek the Savior at once. That speech led me to desire to be a Christian. I have been to every prayer-meeting since, and I now feel it to be my duty not to rest till I find I am accepted of Christ."

He is now a devout and humble follower of Jesus, believing he is accepted as a child of God and heir of His kingdom.

Rev. R. Spencer Vinton, chaplain of McKim's Hospital, relates the following incident:

Among others, Sylvester McKinley of Pennsylvania, was received into the hospital, immediately after the battle of Antietam. He was a noble-looking youth, of fine figure and intelligent face. He had lost his left arm and was much reduced; he was in great destitution, having neither coat, vest, or hat. All who saw him were interested in him, and the ladies of the Relief Association took charge of him and rendered him comfortable. His condition being critical, I at once began to give him religious instruction. Having been a Sunday-school scholar, he easily understood my teachings, and listened with attention, desiring to know if I thought Jesus would be his friend and Savior. He received my assurances of Christ's interest in him with joy, and was made happy in the belief that he should reach heaven. In my daily visits to him, I always found him with his Testament in his hand or near him. I prayed with him and found him trusting in God and confident in his hope of heaven. His nurse was faithful, and he was grateful for all kindness. Worn out by his sufferings and almost fainting, he asked his nurse to hand him his Testament. He opened it, read a brief passage: "Now," said he, in a feeble voice, "place it under my head." The nurse did as he wished. He calmly laid his head upon the treasured volume, and in a moment was asleep in Jesus.

### WASHINGTON CITY YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The work at their own door has been boundless, and most nobly done. For months past, from twenty to thirty thousand of sick and wounded have been distributed in the various hospitals in the District, and the Association has aided the Commission in its efforts for their relief and instruction.

Immediately after the commencement of the arrival of troops, and while they were all quartered in the city, it was divided into districts, and each district given in charge to certain members of the Association, whose duty it was to see that the spiritual wants were met.

Thirty delegates have also been commissioned at Washington



for the battle-fields and hospitals, and some of them are still engaged in the good work.

The Association subsequently employed a missionary, paying his salary and expenses from their own treasury, to work amongst the Government teamsters and laborers, and in the camps adjacent to the city. This mission, which commenced March 1st, 1862, deserves a more extended notice than we are able to give it, for it is one of exceeding interest.

#### **Mission amongst Government Teamsters.**

Rev. C. P. Lyford, the first one employed in this mission, was aided by members of the Association, and by his wife, who was a charming singer, and whose presence with her husband had the restraining and subduing influence peculiar to woman. The field was very unpromising. The men connected with the Quartermaster's Department were herded together in two great encampments. There was nothing to restrain or refine them. Their work was rough, and they were away from home, in the capital where temptation is rife. They knew no Sabbath; the atmosphere shook with profanity; drink was easily obtained; gambling was their passtime; and every influence was corrupting.

A church was obtained, but they would not attend it. Soon Mr. Lyford, accompanied by his wife, went into the camp, and standing upon a box, commenced singing. The men looked up and exclaimed, "What's up!" and came rushing together. A talk about their homes and hardships, and the hardening influences around them, and about Jesus and salvation, followed by prayer, started the tears freely, and they urged them to come again.

Shortly the teamsters themselves arranged a canvas chapel, very large and comfortable, with bales of hay and intervening planks for seats, and a rude pulpit, all of their own accord, and appointed one to go through the camp to call the men together at each service, and spoke of it as their church. And there many a wanderer has been reclaimed, and we hope some sinners converted.

This led to a similar movement in the other great camp of the teamsters. There they used a schoolhouse which was within their limits, and added to it a great wide awning in front, so that

the missionary could stand in the doorway and speak to the men both inside and out.

Rev. O. P. Pitcher succeeded Mr. Lyford, and is successfully carrying on the work, the arrangements in the great dining-halls of mess-houses, both for preaching on the Sabbath and prayer-meetings on week-day evenings, being much more satisfactory than in the early progress of the work. The Quartermaster's Hospital has also been much enlarged,—now capable of accommodating over one hundred patients, over which the missionary acts as chaplain, and where he holds one of the five regular services of the Sabbath, and visits through the week.

They have distributed about eighteen thousand nine hundred and sixty Testaments; four hundred and fifty thousand three hundred and eighty-four pages of books, pamphlets, and tracts; twenty-five thousand six hundred and twenty religious papers, and have held more than five hundred preaching, prayer, and other religious meetings.

The ladies have aided them, and committees of ladies and gentlemen, authorized by Government, have visited each hospital and seen the patients individually, to ascertain their wants, temporal and spiritual, and supply them. They have placed their gifts in the hands of the men, and have not allowed them to go through the nurses and other officers of the hospital.

The Association has also greatly helped the Commission in their general work. Before the Commission was formed, they obtained from Government the free use of a room in the Post Office building and one in the Patent Office building, for operations in the army, which they tendered to the Commission upon its establishment. Afterwards it was found that their rooms on Pennsylvania Avenue were better adapted for our work, as it became more extensive, and now they are used for our office and store-room, and also for sleeping-rooms for all of our delegates while they are in Washington, and all this free of charge. They have also been of great service to us in securing for the Commission the use of ambulances and other Government facilities.

The Commission are under great obligations to Mr. Wm. Ballantyne, the Chairman of our District Committee in Washington, for the use of his store, for much of his time given to the

direction of the work, and for his valuable suggestions from time to time.

### BUFFALO.

GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

The report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Buffalo, N. Y., must be given principally in generalities. The Secretary of the Committee, having himself recently joined the army, and left only a portion of the records obtainable by the Committee, we are therefore left without the statistical facts necessary to make our report as complete as would be desirable.

The Committee, nevertheless, feel themselves obligated, not only to the Commission, but to the Christian public, to acknowledge the contributions received, and to make an exhibit of the disbursements of funds committed to their care.

It would add much to the value and interest of this report, if it contained a history of all the religious meetings, Bible classes, the specific kind and quantity of religious and secular reading distributed at Camp Morgan, with the incidents connected with the few who professed to have obtained hope in the atoning merits of Jesus. These with many others have left us to defend our country's liberty, some of whom will never return to gladden the heart of parent, brother, sister, or wife, but having offered their life upon their country's altar, may now be waiting in the mansions of our Father, to adorn the coronet of him who, in the labor of love, was instrumental in winning them to Christ.

The Committee have the satisfaction to state, that the soldiers at Camp Morgan were, with but few exceptions, very willing recipients of religious instruction, and eager for religious reading. The greatest difficulty which the Committee experienced, was that the demand was greater than the supply.

The plan adopted by the Committee to meet the religious wants of the camp, was on each Sabbath morning to distribute tracts, religious papers, and periodicals; in the afternoon to have Bible classes and public preaching by some one of the city pastors, and in the evening, prayer-meeting, interspersed with short addresses and exhortations, and at the solicitation of some of the

officers and men, a week-day evening prayer-meeting was conducted with marked interest and apparent good results. The prayer-meetings and preaching were usually held in the mess-room, which would accommodate between nine hundred and one thousand persons. The meetings were generally well represented by the officers and men in camp, and who very generally participated in the exercises of the meetings.

It is but due to state, that a large portion of the reading matter distributed by the Committee, was the voluntary contribution of citizens of Buffalo.

The following are the principal varieties, and the estimated quantities distributed to the soldiers while at Camp Morgan: 1200 copies Buffalo Christian Advocate, 600 Gospel Messenger, 200 Christian Banner, 200 Sunday-School Times, 2000 Sunday-School Banner, 1000 Child's Paper, 400 pamphlets, 400 volumes library books, 40,000 pages religious tracts, besides Bibles and Testaments.

The total of money received by the Committee, . \$671 05

Forwarded to United States Christian

Commission, . . . . .	\$590 25
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Local disbursements, . . . . .	56 80
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Money and subscriptions on hand, . . . . .	24 00
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\$671 05

In conclusion, the Committee would express their deep interest in the work, and acknowledge that they, while endeavoring to water others, have themselves been greatly refreshed. It has been a happy privilege to them, to extend the hand of friendship to the defenders of our country's rights, and assure them that they have a deep interest in the prayers and warm sympathies of the Christian hearts of this nation.

JOHN D. HILL,  
N. A. HALBURT,  
FRANCIS P. WOOD,  
WM. L. FRENCH,

JOHN F. ERNST,  
E. A. SWAN,  
S. D. SIKES,  
J. S. FOSDICK,

Committee.

### CHICAGO.

A great work has been done by this Committee. They have sent out twenty-six gentlemen and four ladies as commissioned

delegates. These good Samaritans have visited the camps, hospitals, and battle-fields at Madison, Wisconsin; Peoria, Springfield, Cairo, Mound City, and Rockford, Illinois; Indianapolis, and Laporte, Indiana; Columbus and Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Corinth and Memphis, Tennessee; Helena, Arkansas; Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Memphis, and Murfreesboro, Tennessee. They have distributed over four hundred packages of stores.

In their home work they have had the co-operation of one hundred and fifty members of their Association, and several hundred Christian gentlemen and ladies of that city and elsewhere. More than twelve hundred religious meetings have been held by them. They have built a chapel in Camp Douglass, near the city, that would hold over one thousand persons. They furnished the materials, and the soldiers with hearty good will did all the work of building. Here daily meetings have been held, both among our own soldiers and rebel prisoners. Some of these meetings were seasons of unsurpassed interest; over a thousand were present on some occasions at the prayer-meetings, and revivals were in progress for weeks at a time, and from twelve to twenty came forward every night, sorrowing for sin and asking prayer. Quantities of playing-cards were obtained in exchange for religious reading.

To keep alive the interest of the community in this good work thirty-eight public meetings have been assembled, where the claims of the cause and its workings have been presented. They have expended more than four thousand dollars, have distributed fifty-four thousand hymn books, and many thousands of Testaments, books, papers, and tracts, to the value of several thousands of dollars.

#### **Soldiers' Communion.**

After a revival, and as some regiments were about to leave Camp Douglass, it was determined to have a Communion season before they went. The chaplains of the regiments were of different denominations, but the Christian Commission united all. The arrangements were made by Mr. Farwell, one of its members, in conference with the chaplains, and it was held in their chapel. The Sabbath came. Long before the hour the chapel was densely crowded; the ministers with difficulty reached

the platform. Chaplain Hagerty, after singing and prayer, stated the object of the meeting and announced the order of exercises. Chaplain Stoughton then simply and appropriately warned any against eating and drinking irreverently, and invited those who truly believed in Jesus, and desired to live a holy life, to eat and drink in remembrance of Christ, and offered prayer somewhat after the Episcopal form. The bread and wine were served by Mr. Hoag, a venerable elder, whose son was present as Colonel of the 113th Illinois, about to leave.

There sat the dusty and battle-worn veterans from the Potomac, who, for eighteen months had not been in the house of God, side by side with fresh recruits about to enter the combat; while the aged father served them all together, his own son among them, with the symbols of life to them, as they were memorials of the death of Jesus. Oh, it was a solemn scene. Sobs and sighs, that could not be repressed, broke the silence, and the scene will never be forgotten. Over two hundred communed. This done, Chaplain Brown offered thanksgiving, the venerable Chaplain McReynolds gave the exhortation to communicants, Rev. Mr. Pratt spoke of preparation for death, a German brother, in broken English, from a full heart, talked of the love of Christ, and Rev. Robert Patterson concluded the communion service by an address to the unconverted,—all showing forth the Lord's death till he come. Eighteen presented themselves for prayer; and fervent prayer was offered for them, followed by praise. And thus ended the Soldiers' Communion.

#### Camp Douglass.

Rev. Dr. Patterson writes under date November 1, 1862:

"God is evidently at work in the army. Here our meetings are well attended and conversions taking place daily. To-day, in noon meeting, a man who ten days ago was so wicked that the men removed his tent out of hearing, stood up to give glory to God for his conversion.

"One night a dancing party was going on, and the leader felt disposed to curse the praying men for spoiling the sport. However, the fiddler consented to lead the music of the prayer-meeting, and thinking 'John Brown' a solemn thing, he soon had the camp singing 'Glory Hallelujah.' But when the religious

nature of the meeting was explained, he played 'Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,' and the men all chimed in, and sang enthusiastically, the sentries around the camp calling out, when the line was read, 'Louder!' and joining in the singing. Thirty came forward for prayers at the close of the meeting. When the services closed, the person who was so angry because the amusements had been interrupted, got upon a box and made an address, of which this was the conclusion: 'Now, all you fellows that mean to give up this nonsense, just shy up your cards as I do,' and immediately a shower of cards went up into the air, and came down on the heads of the audience and were trodden into the mud.

### **THE WESTERN ARMY COMMITTEE,**

At St. Louis, had much to discourage and hinder them during all the earlier progress of the war. They did a grand good work for their means and numbers. They held meetings in Camp Jackson, on the very ground where the Secession forces surrendered to the brave Gen. Lyon, and in the hospitals and elsewhere, and in Camp Benton they kept up a semi-weekly prayer-meeting, attended sometimes by eight hundred or one thousand soldiers. Often they secured preaching for them, and multitudes gathered to hear. An incident in one of these meetings may serve to show how the men were moved oftentimes.

### **A Whole Regiment Pledged not to Utter an Oath.**

A St. Louis regiment was recruited under the then Colonel, now General Fisk, of the Christian Commission, and was ready to leave for the field. The occasion was used for having a special service. Five thousand people assembled. The regiment was massed in front in the centre. Whilst the speaker was addressing the men about profanity, the Colonel begged him to pause a moment, and himself rose and suggested to his men that he thought their Colonel could do all the swearing necessary for the whole regiment, and asked them if they were willing to leave it all for him to do. Then proposed that all who would pledge themselves not to utter an oath until they had first heard one from his lips, should lift up their hands. Instantly every hand was up, and the whole thousand pledged.

### **Daily Worship Established and Kept Up by the Soldiers.**

Many Christians who had kept silence before were induced to come out openly, backsliders reclaimed, and sinners converted, in Camp Benton. At last, one day, to the delight of the Army Committee and their helpers, they found that several soldiers in the convalescent ward of the hospital had banded themselves to take turns in conducting a daily service open to all.

Great good was accomplished by these things, and also by the large amount of good religious reading matter distributed by the Committee.

In September last, in connection with a visit to them of the Secretary of the Commission, the Army Committee held their first public meeting, which was large, enthusiastic, and resulted in a liberal contribution and subscription, and an increase of the Committee in numbers, and a wide expansion of plans and operations.

Rev. Mr. Emory was immediately enlisted as a general agent, to visit the various armies in the Western field. With him Rev. Glen Wood, of the American Tract Society, was associated. Their first journey is described in the following

### **Graphic Letter.**

Leaving St. Louis, we visited the camps, hospitals, and military posts at Cairo, Columbus, Memphis, Helena, Jackson, Bolivar, and Corinth, seeing vast numbers of our troops, preaching constantly and distributing our publications to thousands of men starving for mental and spiritual food.

### **Services on a Steamboat.**

We conducted morning and evening services on the steamboat with a large attendance from the passengers, evidently interfering seriously with the gamblers, who seem always to infest the boats of the Lower Mississippi. So much interest was manifested in our work that a collection was proposed and taken. This was encouraged and materially aided by a speech from the Hon. Mr. N—— of Memphis, formerly a member of Congress. Twenty-seven dollars were contributed to furnish reading to the soldiery.



### **The Need and Value of Religious Reading.**

A chaplain told me that so long as his supplies of reading lasted there was a good degree of order and morality maintained in the regiment; but when he lost his library, and had no more tracts and papers for distribution, the boys began to play cards, first for amusement, then for money, and a gambling mania spread over the camp, carrying with it other vices, and making the camp hideous by its iniquity; and he could have no power to check the spreading desolation. How heartily he greeted our coming! Oh that every friend of his country could see the earnest greed with which these publications are received by the great majority of the men; then I am sure they would be as ready to help satisfy the demand as they have been to persuade the men to engage in the service of their country.

### **A Model Chaplain.**

At Helena we were cordially entertained by the Rev. J. G. Forman, serving as postmaster and post-chaplain. He is one of the finest specimens of a truly devoted, active, laborious chaplain that I have met. Receiving and distributing some four thousand letters per day, work enough for one man, he could not rest with all the churches of the village confiscated to hospital purposes, and no worship in town on the Sabbath. He sought and obtained the reservation of one church for service, where we preached morning and evening to a full and most attentive audience, many standing in the aisles or sitting upon the floor.

Mr. Forman is deeply interested in the thousands of needy and suffering contrabands which are gathered there, as at every military post held by our forces. He rode with us to their camp, where we held one of the most solemn and melting services it was ever my melancholy pleasure to attend. What can be done for the souls of these poor outcasts?

### **A Chaplain's Convention.**

At the chaplain's room we held a meeting of the chaplains of the post, nearly all of whom were present, fourteen in number. That meeting was one of the deepest interest. For two hours we conversed, sang, and prayed together. Each man gave a

brief statement of the moral and religious history, present condition, and spiritual wants of his regiment. It was like a real Colporteur Convention.

Those two hours knit our hearts together, revived hopes, quickened graces, created friendships, revealed moral desolations in the army, alarmed fears, and inspired new resolutions of devotion, toil, prayer, and faith, which must constitute a new era in the history of that army, if it shall continue together either in camp or in the field.

### Preaching on a Rail-car.

Arriving at Bolivar, we found everything was crowded forward to Grant's army at La Grange; but a bridge on the line of the railroad, six miles below Bolivar, was not quite finished. From the expectation momentarily of a despatch by telegraph that all was ready, trains were detained, and being all heavily laden with troops and munitions of war, we had by Sabbath morning acres of men, teams, and railroad trains, all waiting for the one word, "Forward."

Here in the midst of these crowds we extemporized a meeting. I climbed upon a loaded platform-car in the train lying alongside the dépôt, and with Mr. E—— standing in the crowd below me, we began to sing, and the crowds came rushing together. What an audience, and what an occasion! I spoke with heart and mind full of fearful forebodings of the evil that awaits us when our families shall hold in their bosoms a million of the sons and brothers who shall have had one or more years of training in those dreadful schools of lying, profanity, theft, robbery, plunder, rapine, obscenity, licentiousness, gambling, drunkenness, and every other crime into which the unbridled lusts and passions of men hurl them, afforded by desolating armies. After preaching to them in all the fulness of my soul for half an hour, I gave them the salutations of friends from home, all of whom are looking with longing eyes for their return, and asking with trembling hearts and fearful anticipations, "What characters will they bring, and what influence will they exert upon our children and our homes when they return?"

Moistened eyes and the warm greetings and hearty shakes of the hand thereafter told beyond mistake, that however deep these

men may have sunk in depravity, they are not impervious to the melting influences of friendship and religion sent down to them from the homes, churches, and Sabbath-schools they have left behind. Oh let Christians and patriots at home awake and work for their salvation!

### **Sad Scenes at Corinth.**

At Corinth we were welcomed to a soldier's quarters and comforts by a truly Christian gentleman, Colonel Chetlain, commander of the post. He gave us every attention; helping us to obtain the object of our visit at the earliest possible moment, and with the least possible labor. We found nearly two thousand men in the hospitals wounded or sick. The two hotels of the place were so crowded with them, that it was difficult to obtain space enough to sit down on the floor. Here, as everywhere, our visit was hailed with delight. The boys were glad to see the face of a friend and hear from home, and be assured that their names are often mentioned around the firesides they had left, and that messages of instruction were to be hereafter furnished them in our books and tracts.

Colonel Chetlain rode with us over the battle-field of Corinth, and described the scenes of the two days' strife. We stood before Fort Robinet and beside the grave of that desperate rebel General Rogers, where thirty-six of his brave followers lay in one pile within six feet of the ditch. We stood upon the spots where Generals Hackleman and Oglesby fell, cheering on their troops, in that deadly conflict. Over fifteen hundred of the enemy lie in the graves to which they were committed by our victorious troops after their surviving companions had fled the field. Oh the horrible devastation of war! May God speedily bring it to a righteous and perpetual end.

As a result of this journey, and a circular sent to chaplains, soon the Western Army Committee were in communication with one hundred regiments, and were supplying hungering hosts with the bread of life.

Two more public meetings have been held by them in behalf of their work; three in all.

Two hundred and forty-seven meetings have been held with the

soldiers, 26,996 books, 8403 pamphlets, 720,806 pages of tracts, 41,461 papers, 9519 Bibles and Testaments have been distributed. Two thousand two hundred and fifty-one dollars have been expended in the work.

### PEORIA.

A camp having been formed at this place, the Association at once formed a committee, and entered upon the work of caring for the soldiers while they were within reach, and before they entered the war.

They established prayer-meetings, which were held each night in the different regiments, so long as they remained, over two months. Eighty such meetings were held. God looked with approval on these efforts, and blessed them, pouring out His spirit abundantly, large numbers coming forward nightly for prayers, Christians consecrating themselves anew to Christ, prodigals returning to their Father's house, and men long hardened in sin, anxiously inquiring, "What shall I do to be saved?"

A reflex influence of these efforts is worthy of mention. The daily noon prayer-meeting of the Association, which had diminished to an attendance of fifteen, increased in numbers and influence, until it became perhaps the largest in the United States, showing that still they that water shall themselves be watered.

They expended two hundred and seventy dollars, and distributed four thousand five hundred hymn-books, four thousand Testaments, and over thirty thousand pages of tracts, and other religious reading, one thousand pamphlets, and five thousand papers.

They put a stop to gambling, and obtained all the cards from four regiments. One pack remained in the last regiment, in the hands of an officer, who had refused all solicitations to part with it. But when, on the parting day, the brethren of the Association came down to the cars to say God bless you, the Captain came forward, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Here, Hedley, I want to give you something. This is the last pack I shall ever handle," and put it into his hands, and the five regiments went off with no cards, and many newborn Christians among them, the fruits of this labor of love.

In answer to the inquiry, "What have you done besides for

the soldiers?" the Commission received the following interesting answer:

"Our efforts have been made almost entirely with the soldiers in camp here. We have forwarded tracts, &c., to the chaplains of several regiments now in Tennessee and Mississippi.

"We have a Ladies' Aid Society in this place, that are and have been for the last year and a half, actively engaged in sending supplies to our sick and wounded soldiers. They have now an agent in the South, with a large amount of sanitary stores, &c., for the wounded in the last two battles.

"Our Association intend sending, in a few weeks, a suitable person to labor as a travelling chaplain among our soldiers, pointing them to Jesus, and endeavoring to persuade them to take Him as their friend.

"The writer holds a commission from your Association, and will have occasion to use it in a short time.

"Yours, truly,

"WILLIAM REYNOLDS,

"President Y. M. C. A. of Peoria."

### **THE ARMY COMMITTEE OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,**

Has labored under many embarrassments, but has persevered in the good work, and is now in a condition to exert a wide influence. They need much aid to enable them to supply the fifteen or twenty thousand soldiers around them, who are all looking to them for religious reading and instruction. They have had thirty-two men engaged in the work, besides many ladies who have assisted. They have held meetings for preaching each Sabbath in all the hospitals, and also meetings for preaching and prayer in the camps around the city. They have distributed two thousand books, three thousand five hundred papers, fifteen hundred pamphlets, and one hundred and ten thousand pages of tracts.

The Commission have given them all the aid the treasury would permit, and will gladly do more, if the means are furnished. Testaments distributed through Mr. Buckley, estimated at ten thousand.

**COMMENDATIONS FROM DISTINGUISHED MEN.****From President Lincoln.**

“EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,  
December 12th, 1861.

“MY DEAR SIR :

“Your letter of the 11th inst., and accompanying plan, both of which are returned as a convenient mode of connecting this with them, have just been received. Your Christian and benevolent undertaking for the benefit of the soldiers, is too obviously proper and praiseworthy to admit any difference of opinion. I sincerely hope your plan may be as successful in execution as it is just and generous in conception.

“Your obedient servant,

“A. LINCOLN.

“GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

“Chairman U. S. Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa.”

**From the Same.**

“EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,  
February 22d, 1863.

“REV. ALEXANDER READ.

“MY DEAR SIR: Your note by which you, as General Superintendent of the United States Christian Commission, invite me to preside at a meeting to be held this day at the Hall of the House of Representatives in this city is received.

“While, for reasons which I deem sufficient, I must decline to preside, I cannot withhold my approval of the meeting, and its worthy objects. Whatever shall be sincerely and in God's name, devised for the good of the soldier and seaman, in their hard spheres of duty, can scarcely fail to be blessed; and whatever shall tend to turn our thoughts from the unreasoning and uncharitable passions, prejudices, and jealousies incident to a great national trouble such as ours, and to fix them upon the vast and long-enduring consequences, for weal or for woe, which are to result from the struggle; and especially to strengthen our reliance on the Supreme Being for the final triumph of the right, cannot but be well for us all.

“The birthday of Washington and the Christian Sabbath coin-

ciding this year, and suggesting together the brightest interests of this life and of that to come, is most propitious for the meeting proposed.

"Your obedient servant,

"A. LINCOLN."

**From Secretary Cameron.**

"WAR DEPARTMENT, December 13th, 1861.

"SIR:

"This Department approves the object of the United States Christian Commission, as set forth in the circular announcing their appointment by a convention of the delegates of the Young Men's Christian Associations, held in the city of New York, November 14th and 15th, 1861.

"This Department is deeply interested in the 'spiritual good of the soldiers in our army,' as well as in their 'intellectual improvement, and social and physical comfort,' and will cheerfully give its aid to the benevolent and patriotic of the land, who desire to improve the condition of our troops.

"It confidently looks for beneficial results from so noble an enterprise, and begs you to express to the Commission its sincere wish for the success of this great work in behalf of the soldier.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"SIMON CAMERON,

"Secretary of War.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

"Chairman U. S. Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa."

**Memorandum from Secretary Stanton.**

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, January 24th, 1863.

"Bishop Janes is authorized to state, that he has received assurance from the Secretary of War, that every facility consistent with the exigencies of the service, will be afforded to the Christian Commission, for the performance of their religious and benevolent purposes in the armies of the United States, and in the forts, garrisons, and camps, and military posts."

**From the Secretary of the Navy.**

"NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 16th, 1861.

"SIR :

"I have received your letter of the 11th instant, asking an expression of the Department as to the objects of the United States Christian Commission, to promote the welfare of the soldiers, sailors, marines, &c.

"The Department will be gratified with any legitimate means to promote the welfare (present and future) of all who are in the service.

"I am, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"GIDEON WELLES.

"MR. GEORGE H. STUART,

"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

**From the Postmaster-General.**

"WASHINGTON, January 5th, 1863.

"DEAR SIR :

"The Christian Commission, of which you are Chairman, have in hand a noble work, and are performing it, I am well assured, as only a labor of love can be performed.

"Yours, respectfully,

"M. BLAIR.

"TO GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

**From General McClellan.**

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
WASHINGTON, January 8th, 1862.

"GEORGE H. STUART, Esq., Philadelphia.

"DEAR SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me of the appointment, by the Convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations, of a Commission to take active measures to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of our soldiers and sailors.

"The objects of the Commission are such as meet my cordial approval, and will, if carried out in the proper spirit, prove of great value.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN."



**From Major-General Joseph Hooker.**

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA., February 21st, 1863.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

"Chairman Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

"SIR: The commanding General directs me to acknowledge your communication of the 16th inst., and state in reply that the only gentleman from your Commission who has presented himself at these Headquarters has received all the necessary passes and transportation he required, and had every facility afforded him for the accomplishment of his praiseworthy mission.

"Be assured that all others shall receive the same, and every attention at his hands, that the exigencies of the service will permit.

"He suggests, however, that under existing orders, those gentlemen of your Commission desirous of visiting the army, should procure their passes and transportation from the proper authorities in Washington before leaving there.

"Thanking you for the kind expression of your regard for, and confidence in our beloved Chief,

"I am, Sir, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"J. DICKINSON,

"Lieut. Col. and Asst. Adjt.-General."

**From Admiral Foote.**

"BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., January 28th, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"It is with extreme regret that I am compelled, from a heavy pressure of public business, to decline your kind invitation to be present, and participate in the exercises at the meeting of the Christian Commission on Thursday evening. The object and importance of your Commission cannot be over-estimated. It will supply a *hiatus* long wanting in the army and navy, and must enlist the sympathies and prayers of all true Christian patriots. To supply the spiritual wants of the public service on the battlefield, and upon the ocean, and to lead our warriors to go forward valiantly to the fight, acknowledging God as our Ruler, and

looking to Him for success, will, I have no doubt, soon cause this wicked rebellion to culminate in the restoration of our Union.

"I am, very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"A. H. FOOTE.

"GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

"Chairman of Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

**From the Surgeon-General.**

"SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
November 22d, 1862.

"DEAR SIR:

"I have received your letter with much satisfaction. I shall always be ready to aid the United States Christian Commission in any way that may be in my power.

"Yours, sincerely,

"W. A. HAMMOND.

"GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

"Chairman United States Christian Commission, Philadelphia."

**From Bishop McIlvaine.**

"CINCINNATI, January 21st, 1863.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I have received to-day the invitation of the Committee of the Christian Commission for the Army, to address a meeting of the Commission, to be held in Philadelphia on the 29th inst. The letter having been sent to Gambier, where I do not reside, has taken all the while, between its date (the 12th) and this day, to reach me. I look upon the Commission as of immense importance, and rejoice in its usefulness, and would have great pleasure in attending its meetings; but I am at present unable to leave my house, and have no reason to expect to be well enough to do so in time for the meeting, should other circumstances favor my going on before the 29th.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"CHARLES P. McILVAINE."

**FACILITIES FROM THE GOVERNMENT.**

The foregoing letters abundantly evince the goodwill of the Government. The memorandum of the Secretary of War, and the letters of General Hooker and Surgeon-General Hammond, assure the Commission and its friends, that all proper facilities will be afforded by the authorities for benefiting the army.

The following letter and telegram of

**Rear Admiral Foote, Chief of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting,**

give the like assurance concerning the Navy :

“BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,  
WASHINGTON, February 16th, 1863.

“ADMIRAL :

“This Bureau has been charged with the duty of attending to the requisitions of the Christian Commission of the Army and Navy, so far as the Navy is concerned. It is the wish of the Department to have forwarded moral and religious works, with hospital delicacies, &c., to the different squadrons, in vessels bound to these squadrons.

“You will please, therefore, have the beneficent object of the Christian Commission in view, and afford it every possible reasonable accommodation consistent with the public interest, and forward such articles as it wishes for the temporal and spiritual welfare of those engaged in the naval service.

“Please refer to the Bureau applications for passage, which must be made and indorsed by some one in connection with the Association.

“The officers of the Society are gentlemen of the highest standing in New York.

“Respectfully, &c.,

“A. H. FOOTE,

“Chief of Bureau.

“REAR ADMIRAL HIRAM PAULDING,

“Commandant Navy Yard, New York.”

"BUREAU OF EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING,  
WASHINGTON, February 13th, 1863.

"ADMIRAL:

"The Secretary of the Navy has assigned this Bureau the duty of forwarding hospital delicacies, religious and moral works, as well as now and then a delegate,—all from the Christian Commission to the different squadrons.

"You will please, therefore, give a passage in the first store vessel, to Reverend James Gubby and George P. Drown, delegates to Port Royal. Also such stores and books, as can be sent in the vessel without detriment to the public service.

"Very respectfully,

"A. H. FOOTE,

"Chief of Bureau.

"REAR ADMIRAL HIRAM PAULDING,

"Commandant Navy Yard, New York."

### SUPPLY OF THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.

One of the remarkable providences of God for the great national crisis through which we are passing, is the abundant supply of His word. The superabundant crops of the cereals, flooding the loyal States with breadstuffs for export as well as consumption, is not more extraordinary than the abundance of means vouchsafed the American Bible Society, at a time when unbelief anticipated the cessation, or at least great diminution of liberality in sustaining institutions of the kind.

The following letter from

Rev. Dr. Taylor, one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the  
American Bible Society,

shows that the gentlemen who administer its affairs, clearly "discern the times," and are equal to the providential demand and supply:

"AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE,  
NEW YORK, February 10th, 1863.

"GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

"Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

"MY DEAR SIR: The Board of Managers of the American Bible Society, at their last monthly meeting, held February 5th,

adopted liberal measures for the full and continued supply of the army and navy with the Scriptures, with as little delay as may be necessary. Among other agencies for accomplishing this great work, we desire and respectfully solicit the efficient services of the Christian Commission and its branches. Our correspondence and experience of the invaluable aid of your organization, with its great facilities of transportation, and its ready access to the whole military and naval forces of the Government, and the direct personal nature of its ministry to the bodies and souls of our brave defenders, have begotten a degree of confidence in its faithfulness as a great distributing agency for our Society, which induces us to request your continued and enlarged co-operation. It surely affords reason for gratitude in these dark days, that Providence has raised up, and prepared our own and kindred institutions, whose united efforts are doing such unspeakable good to the men who fight our battles, and even to our enemies, whenever occasions offer. To God in Christ be all the glory, and from Him let us seek mercy and grace for our time of need.

“The plan of our Board of Managers provides for large grants of the New Testament, and other Scriptures, in whole or in part, which the Committee on Distribution are authorized to send out, as they may from time to time be requested; due report being made monthly to the Managers. Thus, the scheme specifies ample grants to the following auxiliaries and agencies at central points :

“To the Washington City Bible Society, for the army in Virginia, hospitals, camps, prisons, &c., within their range.

“To the Depository at St. Louis, for the use of the Christian Commission, and for distribution from that point.

“To the Louisville Bible Society, to be distributed under the supervision of Mr. William H. Bulkley, and from that point down into Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

“To the Maryland Bible Society, for distribution in the army, hospitals, forts, ships of war, in and about Baltimore, at Fortress Monroe, and in adjacent parts of Virginia, and among the population of Virginia.

“To the New York Branch of the Christian Commission, for distribution in the army and navy, hospitals, and general popula-

tion, at Newbern, North Carolina, and in parts adjacent; also at Beaufort, South Carolina, and other parts of that State.

"To New Orleans, as a centre for distribution in the same manner, under superintendence of a special agent, to be appointed, who shall act, as far as practicable, in unison with the Southwestern Bible Society, the Christian Commission, and others.

"At all the localities named above, we shall be glad to secure the aid of the Christian Commission in co-operation with our auxiliaries and agents, and where this is not practicable, by its own delegates acting as formerly, with and for us, among distant regiments and on the field of battle, or wherever the work and the men are ready.

"My dear brother and friend, every day adds new testimonies to the power of the Holy Spirit, and to the good providence of God, in the grand development of these combined labors of philanthropic and Christian usefulness. These are the bright and cheering aspects of the conflict, which, whatever its immediate issues may be, will in the end advance the glory of God in 'the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.' For God and our country let us move forward, as did the primitive Christians in times of war, pestilence, and famine, true to the faith of the glorious Cross, and true to all the great interests which we hold in trust for a perishing world.

"I am yours most sincerely,

"WILLIAM J. R. TAYLOR,

"Corresponding Secretary A. B. S."

### A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST.

Hitherto hath the Lord helped us. Our progress has been amazing. An immense work has grown up within a few months. All expenses have been met. No debt has been incurred. More than a hundred pages are required for the most condensed report of the work and its incidents as given, whilst a great deal more has been reluctantly withheld for fear of enlargement beyond the limits of prudence for gratuitous circulation. The parable of the mustard seed has been signally exemplified; the least of all seeds, buried from the time of organization in November, 1861, until the Peninsular campaign in 1862, when it germinated,

has now, early in 1863, grown to be a great tree, filling the nation with benign influence. No arithmetic can compute its value. It cannot be weighed in money-scales nor estimated by dollars and cents.

The Christian sentiment of the loyal States has been elicited to sustain the Government and to relieve and benefit our brave men of the army and navy. The Government has been called on to confess and express its dependence upon God for support, and to manifest deep interest for the moral and religious welfare of our gallant defenders. *The Home and the Church* have been brought to the men in the field, and cheering, consoling intelligence from the men in the field to the home and the Church. Thousands of lives have been saved to the country and to loving home circles. Thousands have been led to the Savior, and hundreds of thousands comforted, instructed, and cheered in the hour of agony, despondency, or death.

These grand benefits have been gained at a cost in money collected and disbursed as amazingly small as the benefits are large. The glory of the work is its exemplification on a grand scale of true and noble Christian benevolence, and that glory is God's. It is God alone who, by His providence and spirit, has called out the hundreds of noble men to give time, talent, and toil for nothing, and induced facilities from Government, railroad companies, and telegraph lines, and the bestowment of stores by the people, which, if all were computed at current values, might reach a quarter or even half a million of dollars, while in all, as shown by the summary appended, less than fifty thousand dollars in money has been actually collected and disbursed for both *home work* and *work at the seat of war*, and it is God alone who has made the occasions and opened the hearts of the many thousands to receive the benefits bestowed. To Him be glory, world without end.

#### A BRIEF GLANCE AT THE FUTURE.

The work opening before us is so immense as to require a strong faith in Him who has led us and sustained us hitherto to embolden us to hope for its accomplishment. The following papers, published whilst this Report has been in press, will unfold the enlarged plans upon which we are entering:

**"Volunteer Chaplains for the Army.**

"The plan given below, having been submitted to the Executive Committee of the United States Christian Commission, was most cordially approved and adopted.

"Responses from pastors and others may be made either to the New York Committee, at No. 30 Bible House, New York, or to the United States Christian Commission, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

"By order of the Executive Committee.

"GEORGE H. STUART,  
Chairman.

"W. E. BOARDMAN,  
Secretary.

"One of the most gallant and devout of our Major-Generals declared publicly in the Representatives' Hall, on Washington's birthnight, that the chaplaincy system of the army had proved a failure. His own division of fifteen regiments—one of the best in the service—had now but two chaplains remaining. We suppose the facts to be substantially these :

"1. A considerable proportion of army chaplains are among the most excellent and self-denying men in the ministry.

"2. Many regiments entered and have continued in the service without a chaplain, and many others are now destitute on account of the resignation, sickness, or incompetency of those appointed, and with no prospect of supplying the vacancies.

"3. The law under which chaplains are appointed defines no position, gives no protection, and *prescribes no duties*; so that the best men are liable to discouragement under unfavorable local influences; and the religious interests of the army must be imperfectly provided for until the law is modified.

"4. Owing to a variety of causes, not a few unworthy incumbents of this most important office are still in commission.

"The Government cannot be held responsible for this state of facts, or remedy its evils; nor is it practicable for regiments in the field to supply their lack of competent spiritual guides, if so disposed. The Christianity of the country owes it to the great Head of the Church, to itself, and to a noble army, to meet the emergency, and to meet it now.



"The New York Committee of the United States Christian Commission propose the following plan, earnestly requesting its immediate consideration by clerical bodies, pastors, and churches, and respectfully urging the promptest action :

"1. The voluntary enlistment of at least one minister of the Gospel, of talent, position, and approved adaptation to this special service, for each brigade of the army—say three hundred in all—during a period of two or three months each. Every city or large town can spare one pastor at least, and *the best one*, for this noble work ; his pulpit being supplied by his ministerial brethren of the same or of different denominations in rotation, or otherwise. Each considerable ecclesiastical body can thus detail a representative for the army.

"2. Each volunteer chaplain may be accompanied by a layman from his own or a neighboring congregation, under appointment as a delegate of the Christian Commission, who shall aid in the distribution of the Scriptures, tracts, newspapers, and camp and hospital stores, and in holding meetings, or visiting the sick and wounded.

"3. The service thus proposed should be gratuitous ; but the Christian Commission will defray all expenses of pastor and delegate going to, returning from, and while on the field, and furnish all needed publications, stores, and other means of usefulness. On this system :

"*The army* would have a demonstration of the benevolence of the Gospel, and of its ambassadors. The very presence of a reputable, experienced preacher of Christ in the camp, on the one errand of salvation, with no earthly reward, would be a living sermon. Able and earnest appeals to the consciences of officers and men, sobered by the exposures and disappointments of war, from esteemed pastors whose congregations have *lent* them for this mission of Christian charity, and whose motives to effort could not be questioned, must have great power. It would infuse new animation into the army. There is reason to believe that such labors would be universally welcomed by officers and soldiers.

"*The pastors and churches* might expect a blessing on their joint self-denial.

"*The country* needs the example of Christian patriotism and

devotion to so grand a spiritual object, as a counterpoise to the selfishness and spirit of faction so unhappily prevalent.

"*The Christianity of the country* needs for its own invigoration and revival, such a demonstration of unselfish vigor as would be afforded by the simultaneous devotion of three hundred of its ablest preachers to the Volunteer Chaplaincy service, among half a million of needy, waiting, dying souls.

"WILLIAM E. DODGE,

Chairman.

"30 BIBLE HOUSE, NEW YORK, March 3, 1863."

### Explanatory Note.

It is not the design of the Commission to supersede the Government army and hospital chaplaincy systems, by this plan of voluntary chaplains, but to aid all faithful Government chaplains, the same as in the past, in their arduous responsibilities, by such personal assistance as they may desire, and our delegates may be able to render, and by a more generous and general supply of religious reading matter for distribution to their men; but more especially to supply, by voluntary service, the many thousands of our soldiers who have no Government chaplains to serve them, and thus to meet a great and terrible want in the army.

Much less is it intended by the statements made to disparage the usefulness or detract from the honor of faithful chaplains. They are worthy of all praise. Tried by discouragements under which many have fainted, they have endured hardships through summer's heat and winter's cold, from which many have fallen, and what is harder than all, they have borne reproaches, drawn upon them by unworthy men bearing the name, and malign misrepresentations from vile lips and pens, and through all have done nobly for their men, their country, and God.

### "APPEAL FOR HELP.

"The United States Christian Commission, under full sanction of the President, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, the Generals commanding the armies of the Union, and the Admirals commanding its squadrons, is prepared to minister, by its own volunteer, unpaid delegates,—Christian gentlemen of the highest respectability,—to the wants, religious and temporal, of every man, on land and on sea, wearing the national uniform.

"Its plan is to have at least one minister and one lay delegate in each brigade of the army and each squadron of the navy, to preach the Gospel, hold prayer-meetings, relieve the sick and wounded, instruct and console the dying, write to their friends at home, receive and distribute the Scriptures, books, papers, and tracts, with clothing and comforts, and accompany all with words of cheer to the men from home, and with prayer to God for His blessing upon them.

"Three hundred and seventy-four men have already enlisted as delegates, many of whom are still in the field and at work, whilst others, as minute men, hold themselves ready in case of a battle, at a moment's warning, to strap on blanket and haversack, take the express train, and go forth to minister to the wounded and dying.

"Thus, by the hands of its own self-sacrificing, respectable, responsible delegates, the Commission places whatever is committed to it in the hands of the very men for whom it is contributed in the most direct, speedy, and certain manner, enhanced by kind words and deeds from those who make the distribution.

"Nearly every office and store-room of the Commission is given rent free for its use; nearly every employé gives his services without salary; all railroads afford their facilities either free or at half price; over the wires of twenty-five thousand miles telegraph companies transmit despatches to and from the Commission without charge; and the Government gives free transportation over all its lines.

"Thus the money contributed to the Christian Commission goes directly, in publications and stores, to the relief and benefit of the noble men of our army and navy, with no material diminution for salaries, rents, freights, or expenses.

"Of the three thousand nine hundred and sixty-six boxes and barrels of stores, worth \$153,000, contributed up to this date, scarcely one has failed of reaching the very men designed to be benefited by them, and that by the hands of delegates who, with full sanction of the authorities, have yet represented the ~~homes~~ <sup>homes</sup> of the men and commended the Savior to them. And the \$52,000 in money bestowed on the Commission has accomplished a work which could not have been done for ten times the amount if all employés had been salaried and all facilities paid for,—a work, indeed, which *pay*, however large, could not have secured.

"The Christian Commission regards our brave defenders as *men, having both bodies and souls*, and aims to minister to their wants, both temporal and spiritual. Bodily relief to suffering men is important and imperative; without it, religious admonitions are in vain and a mockery. Therefore, the Commission receives and distributes clothing and com-

forts, and sends relief to the sick, wounded, and destitute, by every one of its delegates.

"Religious instruction and consolation are more priceless still, and the Commission, while meeting bodily wants, does not forget that God made men *living souls* to live by His own precious Word, and that '*there is none* other name given under heaven amongst men whereby we can be saved' but the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore sends as delegates only such men as love the Savior and His Word, and delight to point others to the Lamb of God.

"For economy, directness, comprehensiveness of aim, and certainty of execution, no other agency since the days of the Apostles excels this, and as a field the world never presented one of greater interest or promise.

"What a call upon all who believe in the Lord for help! A million of men, breasting the tide of rebellion, suffering the loss of home and home influences, and of all religious privileges, subject to the perils, calamities, and vicissitudes of camp and battle-field, exposed to the in-  
 clemency of winter, appealing to us for help!

"From every division and squadron comes the cry for delegates, clothing, comforts, and, louder than all, for the Word of God and religious reading matter.

"Then, too, great movements and battles are at hand. Thousands will fall. And now is the time for renewed, generous, intense effort; for 'the night cometh' speedily to many of our brave defenders, when, alas, help will be too late for them.

"For further information, directions, and documents, address the Rev. W. E. Boardman, Secretary, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

"All stores should be addressed to George H. Stuart, Chairman, No. 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia; and money be sent to Joseph Patterson, Western Bank, Philadelphia.

ROLLIN H. NEALE, Boston.

CHARLES DEMOND, Boston.

E. S. JAMES, New York.

JAMES BELLS, Brooklyn.

MITCHELL H. MILLER, Washington.

GEORGE H. STUART, Philadelphia.

JOHN P. CROZER, Philadelphia.

JAY COOKE, Philadelphia.

M. L. R. P. THOMPSON, Cincinnati.

COL. CLINTON B. FISK, St. Louis.

JOHN V. FARWELL, Chicago.

JOHN D. HILL, Buffalo.

*"Members of the United States Christian Commission.*

"PHILADELPHIA, March 16, 1863."

### APPEAL FOR RELIGIOUS PAPERS.

In addition to the above, we have issued an appeal to the readers of each and all the religious papers in behalf of the soldiers in hospital and camp, to supply them with the papers of their choice, in the following terms.

#### "Religious Newspapers for Soldiers.

"The soldiers in the field and in the hospitals are eager for religious newspapers. Their own familiar family denominational papers are the most prized of all. They are read from beginning to end, and passed from hand to hand, until quite worn out. They revive home, church, and Sabbath-school associations; keep up the knowledge of passing events, religious and secular; increase intelligence, prevent demoralization, inspire cheerfulness, encourage patriotism, and strengthen heroic resolve; and above all present Gospel truths in articles terse and attractive, and illustrate their benign power by narratives of conversions, revivals, and hallowed Christian examples of holy living and happy dying.

"The Christian Commission would rejoice to present by its delegates and chaplains the best loved paper of each soldier to him every week; but, even if its treasury could bear the expenses, which it would not, the Commission could not devote means contributed for *general purposes*, to the purchase of *denominational papers*. It can be done, however, by special contributions for the purpose, and to this end an appeal is now made to the friends of each and all the religious papers of the land. Let the friends of each contribute to the paper itself directly all they can afford for the purpose, and the Commission will see that the papers are placed in the hands of the soldiers.

"It is designed that an article similar to this shall appear in every other paper, and thus an appeal be made to the friends of each through its own columns. And the Commission has this special request to make of editors, in behalf of the soldiers, that they will not permit the matter to drop, but call attention to it from week to week, until a supply is secured in some measure

commensurate with the vastness of our army, and the eagerness of our soldiers.

"This paper will furnish ——— copies weekly, during three months, for five dollars, or ——— copies for ten dollars, or ——— for twenty-five dollars, or ——— for fifty dollars, or ——— for one hundred dollars.

*"Those who may desire to contribute for the purpose of sending this paper, will please forward the amount to its publishers, who will furnish the papers to the Commission.*

GEORGE H. STUART,  
Chairman.

W. E. BOARDMAN,  
Secretary."

### A ROUGH ESTIMATE.

To carry out the plans on which we are entering will require vast enlargement of means. Three hundred men, although their services are freely given, will yet for their expenses require a large sum every week, and to supply them with publications for free and frequent distribution, will require a sum still larger. The American Bible Society will furnish the Sacred Scriptures in abundance to meet this the first necessity of the work. The Presbyterian Board of Publication has already made one grant of two hundred dollars in its valuable works for the soldiers, and one of its friends has given us through it one thousand dollars more. Other Boards and Societies of Publication have given us aid by reduction of prices, and by contributions of books, papers, and tracts; and we may reasonably hope for increasing assistance from these sources, as the unexampled facilities of the Commission as a distributing agency for the army and navy become known. And we can scarcely fail of receiving from the people, all the stores required to fill the hands of our delegates with the means of relieving the urgent bodily wants of the men they seek to benefit. The people whose pastors give their services will surely supply their own pastors with all they may need for distribution, while engaged in the work, and if they should in any measure fail to do this, others, when they understand the certainty, the wisdom, the kindness, the economy with which their benefactions will be bestowed upon the men for whom

they are intended, will not fail to supply the lack by their abundance.

Yet the two things, *expenses of the delegates and publications for them to distribute*, will absorb large sums of money, aside from all other and all incidental expenditures. Five dollars a week for each of three hundred men, would amount to at least *six thousand five hundred dollars a month* for them all, and their expenses cannot well fall below five dollars a week.

Two cents a week in reading matter, to each of our one million of men in arms, would amount to the grave sum of more than eighty-five thousand dollars a month. These two items alone, therefore, reckoning them at the lowest rates of the most rigidly economical supply, would amount to at least ninety-one thousand five hundred dollars a month.

### HOW TO MEET THE DEMAND.

To meet this great demand, it is needful that the work of organization should be vastly extended, and the work of collection vigorously pushed.

Let every city, town, and village form and report to us its Army Committee, to hold meetings, collect and forward money and supplies, and to select and recommend men to go as delegates. If in any place a committee has been formed, and the work successfully begun, let those engaged in it go out into other places around them, large or small, and organize there. Let every man feel himself called upon by the providence of God, and authorized not only to do what he can himself personally, but also to organize others for the work, and press them into it.

If, however, in any place, a committee has not been formed, do not wait for a visit from any one from any other place, but organize immediately; and if information is needed, send at once to the central office in Philadelphia, or the office in New York or Boston, or the place most convenient, for documents and instructions, or for some one to visit and address the people.

Many look upon the Christian Commission as belonging exclusively to the Young Men's Christian Associations, and think, therefore, that if they do not belong to an Association, or if there is no Association in the place of their residence, nothing is to

be done by them, or in their place of abode. Not so. The Christian Commission is for the benefit of *all the men of our army and navy*, and for the use in this work of all the people at home, male and female, old and young; and if its work in the field is extended to all, it will be by the help of all classes and all people at home.



*B. F. Manierre, Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.*

Dr.		Cr.	
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	\$915 37	By bills paid for Commission, . .	\$860 15
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Troy, . .	79 42	" incidental expenses, . . .	51 03
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	100 00	" expenses delegates, . . .	141 88
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Buffalo, .	50 00	" George H. Stuart, acting Treasurer, Philadelphia, remitted him, . . .	100 00
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Amsterdam, . . . . .	51 72	" Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, Philadelphia, to close account, . . . . .	43 45
	<u>\$1,196 51</u>		<u>\$1,196 51</u>

NEW YORK, August, 1862.

*George H. Stuart, Acting Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.*

Dr.		Cr.	
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	\$4,869 35	By expenses Delegates and Agencies, . . . . .	\$2,648 59
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	3,405 00	" freight paid,* . . . . .	392 76
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Portland, .	62 60	" incidental expenses paid, .	54 15
To cash received from B. F. Manierre, Treasurer, N. Y., .	100 00	" bills paid, . . . . .	3,767 13
	<u>\$8,436 95</u>	" Joseph Patterson, to close account, . . . . .	1,574 32
			<u>\$8,436 95</u>

PHILADELPHIA, September 24, 1862.

*Joseph Patterson, Treasurer, in account with Christian Commission.*

Dr.		Cr.	
To cash received from B. F. Manierre, late Treasurer, .	\$43 45	By expenses Delegates and Agencies, . . . . .	\$2,550 92
To cash received from Geo. H. Stuart, late Acting Treas., .	1,574 32	" bills paid, . . . . .	8,947 97
To private subscriptions, acknowledged in papers, . .	8,590 99	" freight paid,* . . . . .	719 24
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, .	1,100 00	" balance, cash on hand, .	673 09
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Brooklyn, .	100 00		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., St. Louis, .	1,114 00		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Albany, .	52 81		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Bangor, Me., . . . . .	86 75		
To cash received from Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Buffalo, .	228 90		
	<u>\$12,891 22</u>		<u>\$12,891 22</u>

PHILADELPHIA, January 29, 1863.

\* Most of these freight expenses were paid prior to arrangements with many roads for free transportation.

## SUMMARY OF THE SEVERAL REPORTS.

	Men to battle field.	Men with soldiers work.	Meetings.	Public Meetings.	Bibles & Testaments distributed.	Bound Books.	Pages of Books, Tracts, &c.	Hymn-Books.	Papers.	Magazines.	Temperance Documents.	Libraries.	Packages.	Money expended by local Committees.	Estimated value of stores.
Washington Association, .	30	100	500	5	18,960		450,384		25,620	2,000				\$635 35	
"    Agency, . . .													307		\$9,000
Chicago, . . . . .	26	150	1,200	38	2,400	5,000	800,000	54,000	20,000				400	4,060 00	12,000
Baltimore, . . . . .	60	490	860		2,000	5,600	4,000,000	1,800	64,000				300	2,821 16	9,000
Philadelphia, . . . . .	200	345	62	1,525	9,708	600,000	30,054	38,700	3,500					3,039 18	
St. Louis, . . . . .	2	30	247	3	9,519	26,996	720,306	41,461	8,403				160	2,251 00	Supposed to be only publications.
Boston, . . . . .		613	36	1,600	3,150	187,966	2,000	9,700				8		2,977 74	
Brooklyn, . . . . .	3	15	60	20		10,000	100,000		25,000	15,000			220	3,790 41	Their estimate, 21,000.
Louisville, . . . . .		32	40		10,000	2,000	110,000		3,500	1,500					
Peoria, Illinois, . . . . .		16	80	2	4,000		30,000	5,000	5,000	1,000				270 00	
E. C. Delavan, Esq., . . .											300,000				
Central Office, Philada., .	121	1,033	3,945	166	50,004	62,454	6,998,656	92,854	232,981	31,403	300,000	8	1,390	\$19,844 84	
	235			22	52,556	53,303	3,955,050	37,843	151,800	3,250		15	2,304	20,315 45	91,150
Totals, . . . . .	356	1,033	3,945	188	102,560	115,757	10,953,706	130,697	384,781	34,653	300,000	23	3,691	\$40,160 29	\$142,150

## ABSTRACT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,

*Presented at the Anniversary, Thursday Evening, January 29, 1863.*

The work of the Commission, together with that of the various Young Men's Christian Associations and Army Committees co-operating with it, is, when summed up, as follows :

Cash disbursed for expenses, Stores, and Publications, . . .	\$40,160 29
Value of Stores and Publications distributed by the Commission, . . .	\$142,150 00
Christian Ministers and Laymen commissioned to minister, at the seat of war, to men on Battle-field, and in Camps and Hospitals, . . . . .	356
Christians actively working with the Army Committees in the Home Work, . . . . .	1,033
Meetings held with Soldiers and Sailors, exclusive of those at the Seat of War, . . . . .	3,945
Public Meetings held on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors, . . .	188
Bibles and Testaments distributed, . . . . .	102,560
Books (large and small) for Soldiers and Sailors, distributed, . .	115,757
Magazines and Pamphlets, religious and secular, distributed, . .	34,653
Soldier's and Sailor's Hymn and Psalm Books distributed, . . .	130,697
Papers distributed, . . . . .	384,781
Pages of Tracts, &c., distributed, . . . . .	10,953,706
Temperance Documents distributed, . . . . .	300,000
Libraries supplied to Hospitals, &c., . . . . .	23
Boxes and Barrels of Stores and Publications distributed, . . .	3,691

In addition to the above, there is much of which no record has been kept worthy of especial mention. For example, a large number of Christian men and women have been associated as helpers with our Delegates and Committees in their work in Hospitals and Camps, not included in the 1033 reported, and the Meetings at the Seat of War with the Soldiers, held by those sent by the Commission, amounting to many thousands, and many more thousands of letters written for the Soldiers to their friends, or to obtain discharges or descriptive lists.

These things not having been recorded, cannot be reported. Hereafter, full record of them will be kept, and full report made.

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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PACKING AND MARKING STORES.

The Commission will endeavor to distribute everything committed to them by everybody, in any and every part of the field, in accordance with the purpose of its organization, accompanying each distribution with the consolations of the Gospel.

The following instructions will aid friends of our soldiers and sailors in deciding what to send, and how to pack, and how to direct what they send :

**I. AS TO WHAT TO SEND.—MONEY IS BEST OF ALL.** It is injudicious to spend money or labor for trifling articles. Clothing is greatly needed, such as cotton shirts, woollen shirts, woollen socks, Canton flannel drawers, woollen drawers, surgical shirts of the same pattern, but tied with tapes down the sides and sleeves, instead of being sewed ; cotton drawers large enough to serve as pants in-doors, dressing gowns, slippers, sheets and pillow cases, bandages of muslin, four to six yards long, and three or four inches wide, rolled up, each by itself, but not fastened ; lint, picked, not scraped, wash-rags, handkerchiefs, and small hair and feather pads for fractured limbs. **OF STORES**—oatmeal, farina, corn-starch, dried rusks, soda biscuits, jellies, fresh fruits, dried fruits, lemons, white sugar, brandy, wine, bottled ale and porter, beef tea in cakes, canned meats for soup, good black tea, cranberries, pickles in kegs, good fresh butter in small stone jars, barrels of onions and apples, and tin cups : all these are always wanted. **TO AID THE SOLDIERS IN CORRESPONDENCE**,—paper, envelopes, and pencils. **OF READING MATTER** for convalescents, a library is a valuable hygienic appliance, and for the able-bodied, good publications are mental and spiritual food. For convalescents, lively, interesting books, the monthlies, the pictorials, the works of science and literature, as well as those for moral and spiritual culture,—such as you would put into the hands of a brother after severe illness, are such as are wanted ; and for the well, also, good interesting books, tracts, and papers. Those designed specially for the soldier and sailor are the best, but send no trash. Our noble men love and deserve those that are fresh and the best. To suspend in the hospital, The Silent Comforter, Green Pastures, and Choice Hymns are excellent.

**II. AS TO PACKING.**—Never pack perishable articles like eggs, sausages, bread or cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Never send perishable articles unless specially called for, to supply some place to which they can be immediately sent. Pack eatables by themselves in separate boxes. Tin cans should be always soldered ; all other modes are worthless for the army. Stone jars of jellies should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed in sawdust or hay, in boxes very tight, never exceeding a dozen and a half bottles in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough-handling. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon.

**III. AS TO DIRECTIONS.**—Mark legibly with ink or paint on the boards (cards rubbed off). Send, by mail, an invoice, written only on one side, specifying the articles, and the marks and numbers of each package, and giving the Post Office address in full to which acknowledgments are to be sent. **WRITE PLAIN** ; give the signature in plain hand, so that it can be read without mistake. If the writer is a man, mention whether or not he is a minister, and if a lady, state whether *Miss* or *Mrs.* Besides the invoice sent by mail, let the donor put in the box, under the lid, in an envelope addressed to himself and stamped, a copy, on which the delegate, opening the box in camp, can indorse an acknowledgment and the name of the regiment or hospital to which it is given, and send it by mail to the donor.

**N.B.**—**Packages** for private purposes or persons are not received or distributed by the Commission.



# United States Christian Commission.

ORGANIZED NOVEMBER 16, 1861.

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United States Christian Commission.



SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.



## SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

Held in the American Academy of Music, Philadelphia,

THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 28, 1864.

The Academy was densely crowded, hundreds standing. The demand for tickets (which were gratuitous) was perhaps unparalleled in the history of such meetings.

The banner of the Commission, which is the banner of the nation consecrated to God, was gracefully draped over every available surface, profusely and elegantly decorating the magnificent building.

The Chairman of the Commission presided. The services were introduced by singing the hymn commencing

"Lord, while for all mankind I pray."

The Germania Orchestra, and a choir led by Professor Bower, added much interest.

The Chairman read a letter from Governor Curtin. Rev. Dr. Musgrave led the great assembly in prayer.

Rev. Dr. Watson read from the Scriptures, Matthew 25: 31-46.

Letters were read from Secretary Seward, Major-General Meade, Admiral Dupont, Secretary Chase, and Rt. Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, D.D.

An abstract of the Annual Report for 1863 was submitted. A statement from Rev. Bishop E. S. Jones, D.D., and addresses from Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, D.D., Rev. D. C. Eddy, D.D., Rev. E. N. Kirk, D.D., General Briggs, and Major-General Howard, were then made.

A beautiful and richly bound Bible was presented to the Chairman, by Rev. Dr. Nevins, on behalf of the clergymen of Philadelphia.

The interest was deep and intense to the close. The vast assembly joined in the Doxology, and was dismissed by Rev. Dr. Brainerd with the Apostolic Benediction.

## GREAT NATIONAL MEETING,

In the Hall of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.,

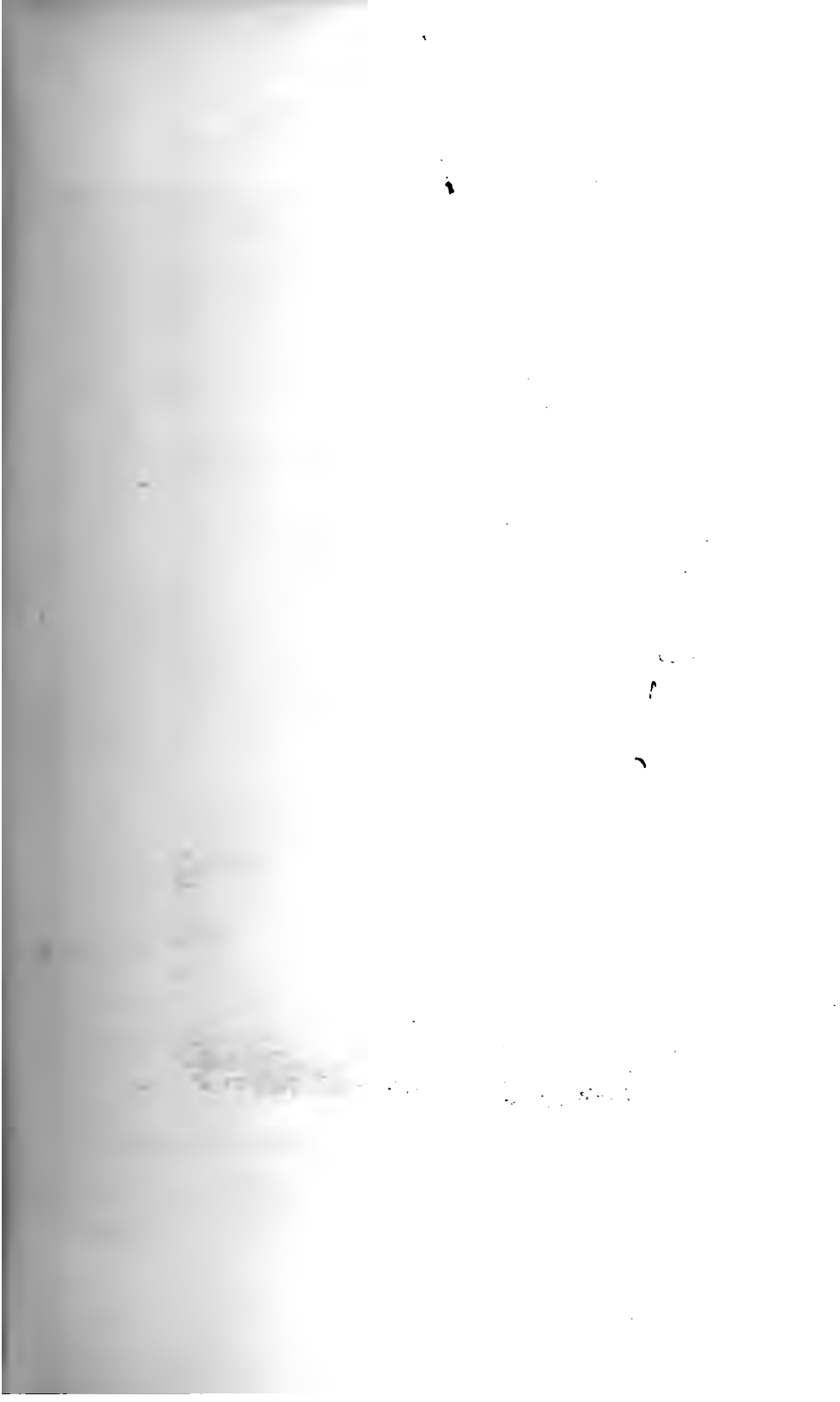
TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 2, 1864.

Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States, presided, and made the opening address. Prayer was offered by Rev. F. F. Brown. A statement was made by the Chairman of the Commission, and addresses by Rev. R. J. Parvin, Rev. Geo. J. Miggins, Hon. Schnyler Colfax, Speaker of the House, and General Martindale.

Letters were read from Attorney-General Edward Bates, Major-General Silas Casey, General Patrick, Provost-Marshal-General, and Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, followed by remarks from Senator Sherman of Ohio, and also from Chaplain McCabe, introducing the Battle Hymn of the Republic, which he sang with great power. Colonel Powell, just from Libby, made a few remarks, and at the special request of the President of the United States, who was present, the Battle Hymn was repeated, amidst unbounded enthusiasm.

For interest and power, it is believed that this meeting is unparalleled in the history of the Capitol.

At half-past eleven o'clock the assembly joined in the Doxology, and was dismissed with the benediction by Rev. Dr. Phelps.



BIBLE CLASS



See page 234

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UNITED STATES

# CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

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FOR THE YEAR 1863.

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

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PHILADELPHIA, APRIL, 1864.

9312.11

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WEST BOYLSTON. Mrs. Abiel Fisher.

WESTBORO'. Rev. L. H. Sheldon.

LEICESTER. Rev. Mr. Coolidge.

WEST SPRINGFIELD. Rev. Henry Powers.

MEDWAY. Captain John Cole.

## THE PACIFIC COAST.

No Christian Commission organization has been reported as yet from the Pacific coast.

Rev. A. E. Kittredge, of San Francisco,  
 Rev. George J. Mingins, of Philadelphia,  
 Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., of Chicago,  
 Mrs. Col. S. M. Bowman,

have been authorized to represent the interests of the Commission on the Pacific, organize, collect money, and do whatever else may be judged wise and best.

## R E P O R T.

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THE year opened with great promise for the work of the United States Christian Commission. It closes with every promise more than fulfilled. And the indications for the coming year are those of a work for our defenders, our country and our God, of still greater extent, interest and power.

The favor of God and the people has steadily advanced with our increasing work and its wants. The Government Railway and Telegraph Companies, and commanders in the field, have given us great and generous facilities. Ministers and laymen have volunteered as unpaid delegates in increasing numbers. Ladies in their "Aid Societies" and "Christian Commissions" have plied their skill with ceaseless assiduity, and shown enterprise by gathering money and stores from their willing neighbors. Little girls of the Sabbath schools, by their "housewives" and letters have helped materially to comfort the soldiers. The churches have contributed with cheerfulness, frequency and liberality,—willing it would seem to have Thanksgiving days, with collections on each for the Commission, come as often as God's blessing on the valor of our soldiers and seamen can give the President occasion to proclaim them, and to seize every opportunity between to keep our treasury supplied. Merchant and railway princes, bankers and brokers, invest from time to time in our stock, some of them frequently and largely. The best hotels in several of our large cities have opened their doors to delegates and members of the Commission free of charge. Welcome remembrances from Americans abroad, and cheering tokens from others in other lands, though no appeal to them has been made, are occasionally received. Missionaries in Turkey, China, India, Labrador, &c., have sent us money, asking to have "fellowship" with us in our



"great and good work." Our soldiers, singly and by companies and regiments, add to their universal, "God bless the Christian Commission," their cash contributions, *most welcome, but never solicited*, in growing number and amount. On shipboard, our men in the fore-castle have met to send us, from the Gulf and from the Pacific, their united voice over the waters to cheer us, and their liberal contributions to aid us; and the officers on quarter-deck have joined with them to swell the volume of both cheer and aid. The American Bible Society has continued to pour into our channels, without money and without parsimony, its ample streams of the waters of the river of life. Tract Societies, Publishing Boards and Houses, and proprietors of religious periodicals, have favored the Commission by large grants and generous reduction of prices, and editors of both religious and secular journals have published information freely, and given the great weight of their warm and frequent commendations to the cause of the Commission.

Thus, we have been sustained, supplied and cheered on in our warfare of peace and battles of love; and God has given us the arduous work and unbounded luxury of such a service for Him, for our country, and for our soldiers, as seldom falls to the lot of mortal men. Wounded heroes on the battle-field have been rescued from death and given back to the nation and to their families. Those wearied, worn and exhausted, on long marches and from hard fighting, have been refreshed and saved from perishing. Bread has been dealt to the hungry, clothing to the needy, medicine to the sick, delicacies to the convalescing, and cheer to all. Prisoners at Richmond, victims of hunger, cold, vermin and filth, have been relieved and supplied with food, clothing, medicine and reading matter. Men in the field, far away from church and church privileges, and from the press and its issues, have had the Gospel preached to them, and Testaments, books, papers and tracts given them upon Gospel terms. Those long absent from home have been brought nigh in many ways, by visits of delegates fresh and frequent from home circles; by tokens of love, transmitted from home to the soldiers and from soldiers to their homes; by thousands, distributed every week, of their own family papers, familiar as household faces; by free writing tables, opened at each station, accessible to all, and well

supplied with pens, paper, ink and envelopes—stamps, too, if needed, without money or price; and by thousands of letters written for disabled soldiers by delegates themselves, connecting the tent and the hearth by a “a living electric chain,” as one of our noble workers has styled the Christian Commission. The cause of our imperilled country has been strengthened in the field by saving and strengthening our defenders, and at home by toning up public sentiment, kindling patriotism and piety, and encouraging faith in God. Religion in its purity and power, and in its breadth of application to the whole nature of man, body and soul, and in its beneficent freeness and unbounded catholicity, has been exemplified in living and grand illustration. Many prodigals have been led to return, many soldiers to enlist under the banner of Christ, many jewels set in the crown of our King, many aching hearts and anxious homes gladdened by tidings from afar of the dead made alive and of the lost found; there has been joy in the presence of God over many repenting sinners, and the song of the heavenly host has been swelled by these new trophies and triumphs on these new and strange fields.

In all these things, the statistics gathered show a fivefold increase during the year, and we hope and believe that, in all that which we never can know upon earth, the heavenly record, when opened on the great day, will show an increase manifold more.

The statistics of the year will be embodied in this report toward the close. Special attention is invited to them.

The Treasurer's account there given will show specifically how the money received has been appropriated, and cannot fail to impress those who are accustomed to observe the cost of conducting great enterprises of public interest and general benevolence with surprise, that so large an agency should be conducted at a cost in salaries and expenses so very small.

The tabular statement (given in the same place) of *stores distributed and delegates sent*, if scanned, will exhibit the large proportion—far more than half of all the contributions and services given to the Commission—that has been devoted to bodily relief and benefit. This and the two tables following, each embraces and sets forth severally the work of the various branches of the Commission and of the Central Office, respectively and collectively.

To place the ascertained results of the year under the eye at a glance, we present here the following

*General Summary for the Year 1863.*

Cash received at the Central Office and Branch Offices during the year, . . . . .	\$358,239 29
Value of Stores donated, . . . . .	385,829 07
Value of Scriptures contributed by American Bible Society, .	45,071 50
Value of Scriptures contributed by British and Foreign Bible Society, . . . . .	1,677 79
Value of Railroad facilities contributed, . . . . .	44,210 00
Value of Telegraph facilities contributed, . . . . .	9,390 00
Value of Delegates' services, . . . . .	72,420 00
Total, .	<u>\$916,837 65</u>

Cash expended in purchase of Stores, Publications, Expenses of Delegates, &c., . . . . .	\$265,211 28
Balance on hand at Central Office, 1st January, 1864, . .	43,547 41
Balance on hand at Branch Offices, 1st January, 1864, . .	49,480 60
	<u>\$358,239 29</u>

Christian Ministers and Laymen commissioned to minister to men on Battle-fields and in Camps, Hospitals and Ships, during year, . . . . .	1,207
Copies of Scriptures distributed, . . . . .	465,715
Hymn and Psalm Books distributed, . . . . .	371,859
Knapsack Books distributed, . . . . .	1,254,591
Library Books distributed, . . . . .	39,713
Magazines and Pamphlets distributed, . . . . .	120,492
Religious Newspapers distributed, . . . . .	2,931,469
Pages of Tracts distributed, . . . . .	11,976,722
Silent Comforters, &c., distributed, . . . . .	3,285
Boxes shipped to the field or shipped at home, . . . . .	12,648

The increasing work of the Commission is drawing heavily upon the Treasury from day to day. The balance on hand is small compared with the prospective demands.

To understand the causes of the amazing success of the Christian Commission, *the necessity for such an agency* must be considered, and *its foundation principles* must be weighed. To gain a vivid impression of its working, its *main centres of supply* at home and *most important fields of action* along the immense war-belt which encircles the rebellion, must be visited in imagina-

tion at least, and withal we must carry with us through all our course the most profound sense of the providence of God, which prepared the church and the men for the work, led to the organization of the Commission, secured the adoption of its principles, called forth the sympathies and liberality of the people, pressed the work forward in successive stages of rapid expansion, and made each great event of the war and each new phase of affairs a new impulse of progress.

### THE NECESSITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

May be seen at a glance, though it could not be measured in an age. Hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers had gone to the war. Their hearts, of course, turned toward home for sympathy and relief in their privations, hardships, and perils. Our hearts, of course, went as strongly out after them, longing to give them abundantly the sympathy and relief they craved.

It was not enough that the large provision of the Government should be supplemented by hospital supplies through surgeons and nurses. This, however abundant, would leave the great want still unmet. This want was that of the "living electric chain between the hearth and the tent," which could be met only by *persons from home*, with *hearts* to sympathize, *tongues* to cheer, and *hands* to relieve; and the same persons returning, with their intelligence, their messages, letters, and tokens for the waiting ones at home. Stores, too, were wanted, not for surgeons and nurses, except in great emergencies; they could be supplied by Government—and never did any other government show greater readiness or ability to do it—but to fill the hands of the delegates from home with ample means of aid and comfort direct wherever they should find suffering or need.

The story of David's visit to the army of King Saul in his war with the Philistines illustrates the case.

There were eight brothers,—four followed the king to the war; David, the youngest, returned from the army, and was keeping the sheep. A great battle was pending, which would decide the fate of the nation. The heart of the home went after the sons and brothers in the field, and after the prospects

and welfare of the army fighting to save the country. So Jesse, the father, took David from the flocks and sent him to "look how it fares" with his brothers, and "take their pledge." *Not empty-handed either.* "Take," said the father, "for thy brethren an ephah of parched corn" (a very nice thing for them in the field), "and these ten loaves, and run with them to thy brethren, and carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand." The colonel was not forgotten.

The want met in this case was that of a delegate to go full-handed from the home to the field, who should in due time return again to the home with pledges from the absent ones; and, in passing, it must not escape us that the visit of the delegate in this instance was God's pivot of Israel's preservation; for it was on that occasion that the boasting Philistine champion was slain, the Philistine army defeated and destroyed, and Israel saved.

This want of full-handed delegates from home is intensified a hundred fold when a great battle is fought. Day after day the wounded lie in agony and blood, and, in the heart-sickness of hope deferred, await the slow relief or the swifter release by death, for want of just that personal service which we at home are abundantly able and willing to give, if there is any way to do it.

Again: there were other and greater perils than those of life or limb to be guarded against, and other and greater wants than those of the body to be supplied. Our brothers and sons were away from the church as well as the home, and exposed to dangers of the camp as well as the battle-field, and withal they were running the extra hazards of war, walking daily on the brink of death, a step only between, and eternity beyond. The Gospel, in its power of salvation for time and eternity, was the greatest want of all. Therefore, the urgency was for messengers of the *church and the home*, with the bread of life in one hand, and relief for suffering in the other. This the chaplaincy could not have met, even if it had been kept constantly full.

Again: for its purpose the governmental provision of chaplain service was ample in the enactment—a chaplain for every regiment—but wholly insufficient in the application, not more than one to five remaining in some large armies, and only one to two

in those best supplied, while the church is abundantly willing to supply this lack of service by sending its ministers from time to time, fresh and frequent from home.

Again: these hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers are in the field where there is a famine of reading matter (that is good, with great temptation from that which is bad); and they feel this the more because accustomed to the greatest abundance and variety. For this the Government makes no provision. Publishing Societies and Boards, at best, could give only limited relief, restricted in variety, excellent in quality, to their own publications. Yet the religious press at home teems with abundance and variety, and would gladly give one-half to have the whole sent to the army and navy.

The one necessity to meet these great and various wants, therefore, was that of an agency which should command the confidence of the Government and people, secure all necessary facilities, select and send the proper persons to the proper places in proper numbers and at proper times, gather and send the requisite stores and publications, systematize and direct the labors and distributions of the delegates sent, and duly report all to the public.

### **THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION**

Are as broad as the church and the nation, and as old as the Gospel and civil society, and yet in their embodiment in an organized national agency, and in their application upon the scale of armies in active service, numbering nearly a million of men, and extending along a war line of three thousand miles, and of a navy comprising hundreds of vessels, with 35,000 men afloat and ashore, they are as new as the Commission.

#### **I. CATHOLICITY.**

#### **II. NATIONALITY.**

The Church of Christ of various names united in behalf of the men of every State gone to the war—a new thing under the sun!

These principles in combination, guarantee freedom from sectional favoritism in distribution or sectarian influence in teaching, and give breadth of resource for supply at home and power of equalization in application to those in the field. By their action,

ministers and others are enlisted from different denominations, stores gathered from all the people, and publications secured from the religious press, and all are sent where and when they are needed, without flooding one part to the neglect of another, whilst the defenders of the nation from every State and of every denominational preference are cared for, without partiality.

### **III. VOLUNTARINESS.**

This is not new. It was old in the days of our Saviour and his apostles. Their example, however, gave it a new and heavenly lustre, never equalled before nor since eclipsed, and still undimmed by the dust of centuries, the rust of ages, or the rubbish of infidelity.

It is, however, new and wonderful in this new example, embracing all the members of the Commission and its numerous branches, with their chief executive officers, offices and storerooms, the regulated freedom of 20,000 miles of railway, 20,000 miles of telegraph, and of all Government vessels, the services of more than fifteen hundred Christian ministers and laymen, and a large part of the immense supplies distributed, all on the principle, *freely received, freely given.*

### **IV. COMBINATION OF BENEFITS FOR BODY AND SOUL.**

The ardent followers of John Wesley, who sought and won trophies on so many fields a hundred years ago, preached the Gospel with remarkable results in the army of Great Britain. Their aim was for the soul alone.

The English Florence Nightingale—name sweeter than the enchanting night-song of her own English namesake—in her aim combined bodily relief with religious benefits. Yet although her name is national, and her fame universal, her work was individual.

Thousands of our American women, also, combine the two. Stars they are in our nation's firmament in this night of war. A galaxy so great, that instead of shining in single lustre like her of England, their brilliance blends into one radiant cloud. Yet lovely as these instances are, heroic, Christian, comprehensive in aim, and great in numbers, they lack the breadth of

nationality in organization with unity of plan and ubiquity of presence to reach all parts of the immense field at once.

The Christian Commission alone, and the first since the world began, is a national agency, embracing man as mortal yet immortal, in plans of beneficence for all parts of an immense army and navy actively engaged in war.

#### **V. RELIANCE UPON UNPAID DELEGATES.**

The system adopted eighteen hundred years ago by our Lord Jesus Christ was in principle the same. He selected and sent forth *men* full of faith and the Holy Ghost, men so loving the world as to be willing to leave their homes and go without fee or reward to bear the glad tidings of a Saviour to the lost, and carrying with them their relief for the sick and the suffering in the Divine power of miracles for all maladies.

But in a national organization, and in application to a vast army and navy engaged in active hostilities, this principle is new.

From the national capital around the whole war circle, the entire length of the Alleghanies and the great western rivers down to the Crescent City, and around, up again, all along the coast back to the national capital, delegates of the Christian Commission are at work, in the apostolic spirit, for the apostolic pay. Armed, it is true, not with the power of miracles for all maladies, but with both stores and publications for all wants of body and mind.

#### **VI. PERSONAL DISTRIBUTION WITH PERSONAL MINISTRATIONS.**

Stores given—*never if the soldier is under the surgeon's care without his consent and counsel, but always if possible directly from the delegate to the soldier*, and always adding such personal service to the value of the gift as may be needed.

Is the gift a shirt, drawers and socks for the soldier wounded or sick? Wash him first, and then put them on!

Is it a bed? make it up in order and tenderly place him on it!

Is it only a blanket? wrap him in it!

Is it some delicacy for the sick, or coffee or soup for the worn or the wounded, or a meal for the hungry wayfarer? Prepare



it nicely and serve it! The reward will come when in heaven the table shall be spread, and the King of kings shall come forth and serve you.

Enhance the value of both gifts and services by kind words to the soldier as *a man*, not a machine; as a man *beloved* for his heroic devotion to the Union, not despised as mere hireling food for powder and shot. Set his heart all aglow with thoughts of the loving ones at home, who send the gifts and send the delegates to give them, and who wait for tidings and pray for the soldiers, and 'long for the time when, the war ended, peace restored, the Union saved, liberty achieved, republican government rescued and guaranteed, the soldiers shall be welcomed back again, and the unsullied, coming forth like pure gold from the crucible, shall be loved and trusted as long as they live, and honored long after they are dead as the heroes who helped to save the nation!

Then when good gifts and kind words and deeds have made their impress, and the soldier exclaims, "Well, this *is* religion!" and says, "Tell me all about it, *how I can* become a real Christian?" then tell him of Jesus, his love, his sacrifice for sin, his power to save, his abundant grace, his readiness to pardon, his perfect righteousness, all, all the sinner's own by simple faith, and induce him to accept of the unspeakable gift, and let the news of a sinner saved ascend on angel wing to give new joy in the presence of God above, and let it go home to fill the waiting, longing hearts of loving ones with glad surprise, and there also awaken the inquiry for the way of life, and bring others to repentance.

Then go stand in the chapel-tent, with its red, white, and blue flag afloat above it, inscribed



crowded inside and around by men who have learned to reverence religion from such fruits, and there proclaim the Gospel of peace to these men of war, preach Jesus and eternal life to these bronzed, battle-scarred heroes of many hairbreadth escapes, who know that there is but a step between them and death, and oh how they listen ! How their breasts heave and tears course their cheeks !

### VII. CO-OPERATION.

1. WITH CHAPLAINS.—The chaplaincy is the governmental provision for the Christian care and culture of the army and navy. It is right and worthy of a Christian nation. An enormous wrong would have been done if the hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers had been called out from our Christian homes and churches, and exposed to the perils of camp and battle, without all possible provision for their preservation from demoralization and destruction, and for their present and eternal salvation.

A chaplain for every regiment was ample, the best provision that Congress could make. The appointments, too, were made with sincere desire generally to carry out the beneficent design of Congress. That some unworthy men should seek and secure appointment, is not strange.

That some good men, impelled to enlist by true patriotism and piety, should find themselves, either from want of adaptation on their part or want of support on the part of the men and officers of their regiments, in false position, and be obliged to abandon it, is quite natural ; that the unworthy ones should disgrace their office by unworthy courses, and that weak ones should be overcome and degenerate into habits of vice and crime, and that these instances should be seized upon as food for scandal, and be trumpeted to the ends of the world, was matter of course. So, also, was the sifting process, by which the number should decrease and the quality improve.

Failure of some in power of endurance, exposed as they are to vicissitudes, hardships, and privations, and of others in power of purpose to hold on to the end of the war, could not fail to reduce the number still more.

But for the Christian Commission, on account of these things,

to have endeavored to supplant and supersede the remaining chaplains, who had stood the test and kept on their course, would have been unwise, unpatriotic, and unchristian. To meet the deficiency of chaplain service as far as possible by its delegate system, and to aid the tried and noble men who, through all perils, hindrances, and hardships, still remain to serve God and our country to the end of the war by supplying them with Scriptures, Hymns and Psalms, and the best issues of the religious press in every form, fresh, frequent, and copious as possible, is both wise, patriotic, and Christian.

The idea, however, that this work of supplementing and supplying the chaplaincy, is or ought to be the main work of the Christian Commission, is extremely contracted, and would reduce the sphere of the Commission from that of a great national, religious, and relief agency between the people, the church, the home, the press, on the one hand, and the army and navy on the other, to that of little more than a mere receiving and distributing agency between publishing establishments and chaplains. With these facts in view, co-operation with chaplains has been a steadfast principle with the Commission from the first. Help has never been sought in vain within the boundaries of our objects and means by any chaplain; nor will it ever be.

2. CO-OPERATION WITH SURGEONS, OFFICERS, AND CHRISTIAN MEN.—God has called more noble Christians forth into the service of the Union than ever before engaged in any one war upon earth. Scarcely a church or Sabbath school in the land is without its representatives in the war. Some congregations have given whole companies and more. Young Men's Christian Associations have given regiments in one or two instances, and large numbers in very many. Pastors have gone with the young men of some congregations, leaving behind few besides the old men and children with the women. Men have enlisted just as Howard procured his own arrest and incarceration in the dungeon, to be able to do good, and as Martyn went to India to win souls to Jesus.

Nothing can delight these noble men, whether surgeons, officers, or soldiers, more than to be helped to the very thing they need at the time and place they need it, to enable them to relieve suffering, save life, and win souls to the Redeemer; and

nothing can please the Commission better than to give these brethren beloved the help they crave just when and where they want it.

One more must complete this specification of foundation principles, viz. :

#### ***VIII. RESPECT FOR AUTHORITIES.***

Before entering upon its work, the names, organization, purposes, and plans of the Commission, were laid before the President, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, the General-in-Chief, and the Surgeon-General, and their approbation received.

In each military department, general hospital, permanent camp and separate post or station, the consent and counsel of those in command have been sought and obtained at the threshold.

Delegates are strictly enjoined, in the prosecution of their religious duties, to offer every possible assistance to chaplains, but never to intrude uninvited upon their proper domain. And in their work of ministering to the health and comfort of those under medical treatment and care, to do nothing without instructions from the surgeons in charge, and in all great emergencies on the battle-ground, or in the field hospital, or at points where the wounded are to be fed and cared for, during their removal from the front, always to report themselves to the medical director or surgeon in charge, and place themselves under his instructions for just that service which will most effectually aid him in the work of relieving and saving our wounded heroes.

And here let it be said to the praise of those in authority, that the Christian Commission has been greatly assisted in its work, by the timely, wise and generous counsels and conduct of generals in the field, surgeons, officers and chaplains; to whom we and our country owe not only the meed of praise but a debt of gratitude and love.

These then,—CATHOLICITY, NATIONALITY, VOLUNTARINESS, COMBINATION OF BENEFITS FOR BODY AND SOUL, RELIANCE UPON UNPAID DELEGATES, PERSONAL DISTRIBUTION WITH PERSONAL MINISTRATIONS, CO-OPERATION WITH CHAPLAINS, SURGEONS, OFFICERS AND CHRISTIAN MEN, AND RESPECT FOR AUTHORITIES, are the foundation principles of the United States

Christian Commission, which we are to see in play as we go to its principal centres of supply at home and fields of action at the seat of war.

Above all these principles of action, hovering over and coming down upon the heads and hearts of ministers, churches, people and delegates, like the Pentecostal breath of heaven, baptizing them with fire, is the threefold inspiration of love for the country, the soldiers and the Saviour. It is this which gives the tongue of fire to those who speak, the soul of bounty to those who give, the apostolic spirit to those who serve without pay, the tireless energy to those who work; which writes Holiness to the Lord on the bells of the "iron horse," and upon the wires of the lightning messenger, and over all throws the halo of the millennial dawn, harbinger of the long-expected day.

#### SOURCES AND CENTRES OF SUPPLY.

Inspired by this love for the country, the soldiers and the Saviour, and impressed by these principles of the Commission, the goodwill of the people has spontaneously supplied men, money and stores. The artesian shaft of war, sunk far down by the hand of the Great Artificer, has penetrated the deeper stratum of Christian sympathy, and the abundant waters of beneficence come gushing forth in copious crystal streams. The Christian Commission has had no organ to embody and make known its work and its wants. The thought of having one was entertained, weighed and abandoned in favor of the public press, religious and secular, which, unbought and free, has been our willing and sufficient voice to the world.

Few documents have been issued, and these sent to few except those who sought them, yet enough to fill many volumes has gone to the public by the voluntary action of the press.

No paid agency system has been adopted for the field of supply. Delegates returning from the seat of war have added their voluntary testimony and service at home to their voluntary work in the field, and there never was such another agency to move the people. In two or three instances indeed, returned delegates, under the pressure of constant and earnest demand for them to address public meetings, have been retained. Scarcely an exception this to the general principle. Necessary sustenance has been the rule of com-

pensation, and this largely met by special spontaneous provision outside the general contributions to the Commission. Without an agency and without an organ to urge them, the noblest and best people of the nation have, in their various centres, organized as committees and acted as local Christian Commissions, and as branches of the General Commission, appointed their officers, opened their offices and storerooms, and issued their manifestoes. And the people, without drumming up, have sent in their money and stores to these various centres of supply, which in turn have poured in their streams into the general work of the Commission.

Ministers and laymen, full of desire to give more than influence and money at home, have offered themselves at various centres, and gone, under the auspices of the Commission, to all parts of the great war-belt, to do work, with head, heart, tongue and hands, never dreamed of at home, and which no money could have hired them to do, work which only such men so moved ever could have done.

Meetings have been called for, and speakers knowing the work and plans of the Commission sent for, from places far and near, not from idle curiosity, but from liberal burning desire to have men enlisted and money contributed.

No outside means, or indirect appliances, combining personal pleasure with public beneficence, to draw money which would not be given directly, have been resorted to.

It is truly wonderful how freely and generously the streams have flowed in. Twice on Thanksgiving days, the first without timely notice to afford general concert of action, the people have by their contributions made their **THANK OFFERINGS** through the Commission, the second alone amounting to **NEARLY NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS**.

Twice in the **CITY OF BOSTON**,—once for the **WOUNDED OF GETTYSBURG** and again for the **UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND**—**E. S. Tobey, Esq.**, President of the Young Men's Christian Association, and ex-President of the Board of Trade, and **C. Demond, Esq.**, of the Commission, sat at a table, in the Merchants' Exchange, to receive the free offerings of the people, and without personal solicitation over forty thousand dollars was bestowed.

While our brave men were sweltering before Charleston in the

extreme heat of summer, and our fellow-citizens seeking comfort and health at the Springs and elsewhere, the occasion of our meetings at Saratoga was seized upon by the Chairman of the Commission, assisted by Governor Morgan of New York, to present at the dinner tables of the hotels, the appeal which had come up from Charleston for ice. The result was voluntary contributions of near four thousand dollars, invested, sent forward, received, and hearty thanks returned therefor.

The City of Providence, where no appeal had before been made, responded to the call of the chairman and Rev. George J. Mingins for the Commission, by the subscription of nearly seven thousand dollars within a few days.

Pottsville, at the first presentation of the work of the Commission by Rev. Dr. Patterson, of Chicago, and Rev. C. P. Lyford from Camp Convalescent, gave near three thousand dollars, and subsequently volunteered to supply coal through the Chairman of the Commission to the families of soldiers deceased, disabled, or away to the war. And the Reading Railroad Company has given free transportation for it all.

Columbia, Pa., without an appeal from any one, volunteered a handsome subscription.

Philadelphia, at a single public Union meeting in the Church of the Epiphany, gave twelve thousand dollars.

Of all this spontaneous liberality the most remarkable features remain yet to be mentioned.

*Hotels*,—and these amongst the best in our cities, have opened their doors to the members and delegates of the Christian Commission, free of all charge. The Burnet House, Cincinnati, the Lindell House and Barnum's Hotel, St. Louis, have received them as guests, without charge, and given unsolicited but most gratifying assurance of their purpose to continue to do so. And the Continental, in Philadelphia, after entertaining the gentlemen from all parts of the country, for days, in attendance upon our meetings in October, when called upon for the amount of their bill, which would have been nearly two hundred and fifty dollars, sent a kind note, saying, they begged to contribute it as their mite toward the great and good work. Other hotels may have done similar things, without its having been reported to us.

*Telegraph Companies*,—have given facilities of inestimable value, without charge. Early in our history, Col. E. S. Sanford, President of the American Telegraph Company, of his own accord, addressed a kind and polite note to the Chairman of the Christian Commission, stating the fact, that he had then already given orders to the offices of his Company in the different cities, to make no charge for the transmission of official despatches on business of the Commission.

Nearly all the other companies in the loyal States subsequently gave the Commission the regulated freedom of their lines, measuring in the aggregate not less than twenty thousand miles,—a most substantial and essential contribution, worth, at cash value, many thousands of dollars a year, and in its general influence, worth many times over more than the value in money.

*Railroad Companies*,—have given their facilities with equal cheerfulness. More than *twelve hundred* delegates have been passed over the railways to the seat of war and home again during the year, without charge. Some of them all the way from Bangor and beyond, in Maine, to Chattanooga, in Tennessee. Passes have been given to members of the Commission and of its various branches, and to its returned delegates and others going out to hold meetings, and stores and publications have been transported, either entirely free, or at greatly reduced rates. It can be no longer said with truth, that corporations are bodies without souls. We have the most substantial evidence that they may be and are governed by the noblest principles, and the most generous impulses.

When the historian comes to write the history we are now making, that of the railway benevolence and patriotism of this war will form one of the interesting and remarkable features of the times, and there are names amongst those who have controlled the affairs of the various companies which will shine with no mean lustre when their deeds shall be told.

Pre-eminent in amount and most precious in kind have been the contributions of the American Bible Society,—465,715 copies of the Scriptures, entire or in portions, amounting in value to \$45,071 50, within the year. It is a matter of ceaseless gratitude that God has provided such a source of benefit and blessing



to our brave men for this the time of their need, and given its management into the hands of men so true to their trust, yet so ready for the emergency.

Elsewhere in this report will be found interesting papers, giving accounts in detail of several extraordinary contributions,—that of a lady in England through the President of the United States, that of the men at sea on board of the man-of-war Pocahontas, and that of the missionaries in India.

These are a few instances only of the vast number, all of which taken together form one of the noblest illustrations of spontaneous Christian benevolence that the world has ever witnessed.

If ever there was heart-work pure and unmingled, on a scale of national Christian bounty and enterprise, we have it in the action of the people through the Christian Commission to the heroes, fighting, suffering, falling for the country.

### DIVISION OF THE FIELD.

To give satisfactory definiteness of object and to increase interest and efficiency in the various centres of supply at home, to give greater thoroughness and breadth to the work in the army and navy, and also to distribute the burdens and equalize the rewards of our labor, the field has been divided as follows :

To the **New York Committee** of the United States Christian Commission has been assigned,—

1. The navy entire, except the local work in navy yards and on vessels in port in the localities of other committees.
2. The military departments along the Atlantic seaboard, from New York to the Gulf of Mexico inclusive.

The field assigned is vast, embracing not less than a fourth of the entire national forces, peculiar both as comprising the navy and the southern seaboard, difficult because distant, and expensive because so much time and money must be consumed by delegates going and returning.

In addition to the entire expenses of their own field, the Committee has added to the receipts of the general treasury and to the means of the general work.

To the **Maryland Committee**, Baltimore, was assigned the State of Maryland, with the localities along the Baltimore

and Ohio Railway to the western line of the State. A field abundant in work, but limited in supply.

Its proximity to the seat of war and subjection to occasional invasion; its fortifications in the vicinity of Baltimore and Harper's Ferry, and numerous guard stations along the great railways; its great permanent camps and many hospitals; its military prisons, and the moving tides of soldiers, sick, wounded and well, passing and repassing through,—make Maryland one of the great fields of the Christian Commission, and with home resources limited by the chilling influence of an unsympathizing element, and with less aid from abroad than could have been desired, the Committee has done an amount of good most surprising and gratifying.

Their report, which will be found in its proper place, gives the principal features and general results of their work; but to see it in more full proportions their voluminous report, published last autumn, must be examined.

To the **Washington Committee** was assigned the Army of the Potomac, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia adjacent. To which, for convenience, the military prison at Point Lookout, with its guard station, and the great dismounted cavalry camp—Stoneman—in Maryland, have been added.

The surpassing interest of their field may be judged from the fact, that at one of its stations, Camp Convalescent, alone, more than one thousand hopeful conversions have occurred during the year. What a parish, and what a work! But to be surveyed in its amazing details, both of stations, work and results, the spirited and intensely interesting reports of the Committee and its missionary, together with the clear and graphic report of the general field agent of the Army of the Potomac, must be carefully read. The history of the world may be challenged to furnish a parallel to the grand and glorious work therein exhibited.

To the **Committees of Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Louisville**, jointly, was assigned the Departments of the Ohio and of the Cumberland, since merged in the grand Department of the Mississippi:

A great field! a field of great armies, great battles, great

emergencies and necessities, and of a great work by the Christian Commission!

A little reluctant, and unlike the great West, a little slow to organize and undertake, these Committees, having measured their opportunity, have entered into the work with a spirit of energy and enterprise worthy of the great West, as will be abundantly evident from their several reports, together with that of the "Work in the Army of the Cumberland."

And here again, History may be challenged for any parallel in all her annals.

To the Committees of St. Louis, Chicago, Peoria, Detroit and Milwaukie, jointly, the Departments of Missouri and Tennessee, together with all west and south to the northern line of the Gulf Department, have been assigned.

The Department of Tennessee has, like those of the Ohio and Cumberland, been since merged by the Government in General Grant's great department, but this does not affect the fields as assigned. By tracing the lines of this field, along the great sweep of the Mississippi and its eastern side tributaries, south to the line of the Gulf Department and west to Texas, and north and east to include Arkansas and Missouri, and by resting the eye upon the bloody and brilliant fields of Shiloh, Corinth, Memphis, Helena, Arkansas Post, and the scenes of General Grant's glorious campaign, Vicksburg included, without stopping to see the scores of other places of heroic and sanguinary interest, some idea of the field in its immensity and intensity may be gained.

The reports given, graphic, full and truthful as they are, convey but a faint impression to the casual reader of the work done and the good accomplished.

**The Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston**, and others not having special fields assigned them, contribute to the general treasury, and aid in the general work of the United States Christian Commission through the General Executive Committee, which has the freedom and oversight of all fields.

And all Committees are specially charged with whatever army and navy work there may be for them to do in their various localities.

**FIELD ORGANIZATION.**

The general plan of organization for the systematic prosecution of our army work is as follows :

1. A division of the entire army into convenient fields, and the appointment of permanent field agents for the fields designated. The fields are not always coincident in boundaries with military departments, but suited rather to the convenience and necessities of Christian Commission work. All east of the Alleghanies and west of the coast departments, are thrown into one general field. This field embraces the Army of the Potomac, the hospitals and defences of Washington, and the great permanent camps in that vicinity, the Upper Potomac and country adjacent, and the hospitals, camps, fortifications, guard stations, &c., of Maryland.

This field is placed under the supervision of one general field agent, John A. Cole, Esq., with the assistance of two field agents, C. W. Jenkins and Rev. E. F. Williams.

The Army of the Cumberland, and the various camps, hospitals, and military stations connected with it, from Louisville south, form a second field, under the superintendence of Rev. Edward P. Smith, who commenced his work as a delegate of the Commission in the Army of the Potomac, assisted for several months by Rev. Henry Powers, of Massachusetts, who took entire charge of the work while Mr. Smith went to Vicksburg to organize there; and afterwards by Rev. Benjamin Parsons, of Connecticut, who was the acting field agent during the absence of Mr. Smith on a visit east.

The Department of the Ohio, embracing the army formerly commanded by General Burnside, now by General Foster, and the camps, posts, hospitals, &c., in its connection, form a third field, under charge of J. R. Miller, Esq., formerly a field agent under Mr. Cole in his general field.

The command of General Hurlbut, and the hospitals, posts, &c., on the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers, having Memphis for their most convenient depot of supply, form the fourth field, under care of K. A. Burnell, Esq., as field agent.

The forces, hospitals, posts, &c., in Missouri, and the region

convenient to St. Louis, as an immediate centre of supply, form the fifth field, under Rev. Shepherd Wells, as field agent.

The work amongst the forces, and in the hospitals, posts, &c., at Vicksburg and vicinity, is under the care of Wm. C. Black, Esq., local agent at Vicksburg.

The Mississippi, from Port Hudson down, together with the Gulf Department, and the departments along the Atlantic coast, from Norfolk to Florida inclusive, have a system of organization differing somewhat from that of the departments embraced in the several fields designated above, and come immediately under the jurisdiction of the New York Branch of the United States Christian Commission.

To avoid the possibility of misapprehension, it is proper to state here that, in each of the fields specified above, the various branches of the Commission to whom the various fields are assigned, as specified under the head of "Division of the Field," not only have immediate charge of supplying their several fields, but are also the advisory bodies with whom the field agents counsel and co-operate. The appointment and control of all permanent agents, field and local, rests with the General Executive Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

2. Christian Commission stations are organized and sustained at such places as required in all these fields,—one at each centre of supply and distribution, each great permanent camp, each large cluster of hospitals, each gathering and stopping place on the line leading to the army, and each great army centre.

Each station, if complete, has its store-room or tent for hospital supplies and reading matter; free reading room; free writing table, supplied with stationery; subsistence and sleeping tents or apartments; place or places for religious services, together with its surrounding field, whether of hospitals, camps, barracks, or whatever demanding labor and supply; and each one is manned with a station agent and delegates in such numbers as circumstances permit or require. The stations are established and conducted under supervision of the field agent, and all delegates in the several fields are assigned to stations also by him.

The battle-field of Gettysburg gave rise for the time to a work so distinct as to form a field by itself, not independent of

the general field of the Army of the Potomac, but very much isolated, and requiring specific organization and separate prosecution.

The general field agent, after following the army for three weeks on horseback night and day, and taking every precautionary and preparatory measure to have the corps of delegates and field agents, with ample battle-field stores on the field for the instant relief of those who might fall in the conflict, felt constrained, after the battle, when the army marched in pursuit of the enemy, to follow it on toward the Potomac, where another and perhaps more terrible engagement was confidently expected.

The organization for the Gettysburg work was as follows :

Field agent, F. E. Shearer, Esq., formerly local agent at Washington.

Assistant field agent and field inspector, Rev. E. F. Williams.

Disbursing agent, J. R. Miller, Esq.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Shearer were already field agents in the Army of the Potomac before.

Receiving agent, R. G. McCreary, Esq., of Gettysburg.

These agents were assisted by several others, whilst the great work was done by the three hundred and more delegates from all parts of the country.

As will be seen by reference to the general account of the "work at Gettysburg" embodied in this report, this large corps of delegates was divided into companies,—a captain appointed over each company, and a specific field assigned to each out somewhere in some portion of the extended field of blood, where each had its tent or station in connection generally with some army corps hospital.



## WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

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THE month of January, 1863, found the Army of the Potomac on the east bank of the Rappahannock, opposite the heights of Fredericksburg, where, a few days before, thousands of its strong men had gone down in battle. The rains of winter were falling, and the cold north wind incited the weary troops to active exertions, as they built up their cities of log huts. The campaign, all said, was at an end, and winter quarters must follow. But it was not so. One night the order comes, "Advance!" and again the great army is marching on to the accomplishment of its mighty task.

Not long to advance. The rain, so long threatening, now falls continuously; the roads become impassable. Artillery wagons, caissons and guns cut deep into the yielding earth, until, in spite of lashings and oaths innumerable, the floundering mules fail to start them from their plastic beds, and so, after hours of wading and waiting, the long column crawls back as best it may, and again takes its old position, before the frowning heights of St. Marie's.

Thousands, who had passed unhurt through the deadly rain of a dozen battles, fell victims to the inglorious perils of the "mud campaign;" and so, when the vast hospital at Windmill Point was set up, there were enough ready to fill its tents and populate its streets.

The Christian Commission had at this time two stations: one at the shanty village of Aquia, the other at the railroad terminus opposite the city of Fredericksburg. The first consisted of a rough board barrack, fifteen feet by twenty, its front door opening upon the marsh; the other a tent, fourteen feet by fourteen,—both being assigned to us by the quartermaster of the post. In these quarters, rude and limited as they were, a work,



great in amount and variety, was performed. Here the delegates of the Commission lived, ate and slept; on this rough table were written the letters that, indited by warm hearts, incited the hearts of thousands, in their distant homes, to give of their abundance for the soldiers' aid; upon this floor and upon the three stories of the rude scaffolding that adorned one side of the room, slept the weary workers after their day of toil, and with them, as many belated travellers as could find a resting-place. Here, upon shelves and in boxes, were the supplies sent for the needy, from east and north and west: here a pile of Testaments, there a box of hymn books; in this corner a huge stack of religious papers and tracts, on the other side, shelves filled with dried fruits, preserved fruits, domestic wines; and in these boxes, generous piles of warm shirts, socks and drawers. On that top shelf, seldom reached, are the bags of lint, bandages and rags, lanterns and pails, brandy and soup,—the suggestive equipment for the battle-field.

Here in the day is a constant stream of chaplains, and surgeons, and soldiers, coming for the weekly supply of reading for the regiment, some hospital luxuries for the sick, or for the little "housewife," with its needles and thread and much-prized letter. Delegates coming and going, taking their loads in arms and haversacks, as they go to distant hospitals and camps, bearing the word of life, or refreshment for frail bodies. Here at night, the boxes placed in rows, the table set on one side, the little room is filled with a company of worshippers, met for the praise of God.

The work of the Christian Commission in the army is one of constant change,—no monotonous routine, no continued sameness. The year, indeed, is made up of many distinct *campaigns*, the one differing so greatly from the other, that, although the same men may be actors in each, one can with difficulty identify them as the same. This week the delegates may be distributing religious papers and books, preaching the Gospel to crowds of healthy, vigorous men; the next, preparing with their own hands some soothing draught or nourishing food for those who are languishing with disease in some lone hospital, cheering the desponding spirits with the kind attentions of "home." This week preparing reading-rooms and chapels, feeding the mind with that

which is wholesome and abiding, inciting to temperance, purity and piety; the next, with coats off, before a fire of logs, cooking coffee and soup for the hungry, or bearing stimulants and nutriment to those who are perishing. To-day living quietly in "winter quarters;" to-morrow, off for the battle-field, with a blanket alone for house and shelter.

During the month of January, at the stations before mentioned, the delegates of the Commission performed a twofold work,—one party with a wagon visiting camps and field hospitals, taking both hospital stores and religious reading; the other remaining at the station, preparing food and drink for the hundreds of sick who, on their way to the hospital, were detained sometimes many hours at the railroad station. But before the month closed a new field opened, that completely changed the plans of the Commission.

Windmill Point Hospital, with its crowds of sick men, called for all the help that could be rendered. It was such an hospital as never before nor since was seen in the Army of the Potomac. On a broad level plain, not long since a cultivated field, was a city of tents, regularly laid out in immense diamond-shaped inclosures. Eight army corps, each with its three divisions, were represented here, and here on the bed of poles or boughs, on the cold, muddy floor, in the fireless tents, were the thousands of pale, drooping, disease-stricken "boys," who after that tedious march had come there to rest, many to die. From necessity, while the officers of Government made every exertion to perfect this vast machine, many days elapsed before the men, who were coming in boats and in ambulances from all parts of the army, night and day, could be made comfortable or be properly fed. In those long, cold nights, in spite of all that could be done, many poor, weak ones were chilled and frozen, and the mounds of sand in the lone "God's acre," told a fearful story of war's cruel necessities. Where to begin to aid, which poor sufferer first to help, were the perplexing queries arising to the mind of one anxious to do all one man could; but surely no time is to be lost. One delegate, seizing an axe, hastens to the woods and returns dragging fuel that shall give a little warmth to a few of the hundreds

of cheerless tents; another prepares stimulating drinks, and going from tent to tent, seeks out those ready to perish, and as he passes from one to another, able to answer a few of the calls made to him upon every side, he speaks such words of cheer as he is able, and commends with a few heart-words some departing soul to God and His upper world.

And so, with tears and aching hearts and tireless feet, the delegates of the Commission, all that can be spared from the stations, labor night and day.

A station was at once established in the camps; the telegraph and the mail soon turned thousands of loaves of bread toward the "Point," from Washington and Philadelphia. Cordials, clothing and fruit were soon at their destination, and many a desponding, sick and dying soldier was cheered and endowed with new life.

Nor was this all. In this hour of man's extremity, God's Spirit was at work. Silently and wonderfully a deep solemnity came upon the camps, and very many crying unto God had their souls filled with unutterable joy in the consciousness of sins forgiven and a Saviour found. As the condition of the hospital became better, and Government aid, which, although it may be slow, is *sure*, came in, the delegates of the Commission found more time to devote to the spiritual wants of those around them. Prayer was offered regularly in the tents, meetings were held in a large cookhouse, and hundreds were personally and affectionately urged to trust all with Jesus, and every day saw sinners awakened and converted. At one meeting in the cookhouse, composed of those convalescing and able to leave their tents, over fifty persons announced their desire and determination to begin a Christian life; and men who came to that dreary camp, as they thought, to die, came to find *life, even life eternal*.

An arrangement was made with the corps surgeons and post quartermaster, by which funeral services were held, by some delegate, at every burial of the dead.

It was suddenly decided to break up this camp, sending the sick to regimental hospitals, and those most feeble to the hospitals of Washington and Alexandria. It was quickly done, and the experiences and labor at "Windmill Point Hospital" were forever at an end. A strange season it seems, as we look

back upon it; full of sadness, pain and death, and yet blessed in being an opportunity, improved to some extent, of doing good to many, and rich with the evidence of the presence and Spirit of the Lord.

One campaign was over, and vigorous measures were taken for the next. Acting upon the experience gained at "Windmill Point," it was resolved to undertake to supply every regiment in the army with copies of the New Testament. To do this more stations would be required, and more delegates and stores needed. These were forthcoming, and until the 8d of May stations were in successful operation at Aquia Creek, Belle Plain, White Oak Church, Falmouth Station, Falmouth Village, and Stoneman's Siding. Although this supply of Testaments was for the time being the *first object* of the stations, it was far from being their principal work. Each station was complete in itself, and contained from three to seven delegates. Hospital stores, Testaments, and religious reading were at each, and were distributed under the direction of committees appointed for the purpose. At each, where practicable, a house or tent for religious worship was secured and meetings held every evening, while on the Sabbath appointments for preaching to regiments or brigades were filled by the clerical delegates. One of the number, usually the oldest delegate, acted as *station agent*, and early in the morning the different delegates, assigned to their various duties, would separate,—one with an ambulance-load of quilts, dried fruit, or clothing, for a distant hospital; another making the round of the regiments to collect and fill orders for Testaments; others with bundles of books and papers, distributing among destitute companies. So the busy day was filled, until at evening all would meet, and, with the soldiers who crowded the room or tent, ask God's blessing upon the labors of the day.

Time forbids to speak of more than one or two stations particularly, although the history of each is replete with interest.

Stoneman's Station was the scene of a remarkable revival. The tents used as a chapel formed a room nearly sixty feet long. Meetings were held nightly, and to them officers and men came

in crowds. The tents stood upon an elevation, commanding an extended view, and, as the evening hour drew near, men, singly and in squads and companies, could be seen wending their way from the various camps towards the house of prayer.

*Mount Zion*, the soldiers called it; and, like Mount Zion of old, it was indeed "beautiful" when, crowded to its utmost capacity and throngs about the open doors, strains of some familiar *home-loved hymn* floated out upon the evening air. Here were heard from veterans who had passed through all the temptations and trials of a soldier's life, testimonies of the strength and comfort they had experienced all the way along from the religion of Jesus; here soldiers would ask what they should do to obtain that same comfort; and here many, with joy beaming on the countenance, would tell of the blessing they had found in the assurance of sins forgiven through the blood of Christ.

The number of men who in these meetings gained a knowledge of Jesus, no earthly record will ever show; but to-day we know there are scores who date the commencement of their Christian life from those meetings at Stoneman's, and hundreds, many of whom have already joined the company of saints in heaven, will thank God through eternity for His spirit there received.

Falmouth Village presented a most interesting field for our station labor, and one, too, quite different from that at Stoneman's. The Commission there occupied a large room in a private house, the owner being away on business connected with the Southern Confederacy. An old tobacco warehouse on the very banks of the river, within hail of the rebel pickets, was cleared of rubbish, the broken ceiling and windows were covered with old canvas, and a small table, borrowed from a neighboring cottage, served for a pulpit. Here, on Sabbath afternoons and on each evening of the week, meetings were held which were largely attended, and here, too, the preaching of the truth was made salvation to many erring souls. The village itself was a ruin; its church used as a barrack for troops; its stores and factories closed. A large number of the inhabitants were still there, living as best they could,—old men, women, and children. The station agent, among other labors, organized a *Sabbath school* for the children, which came to be held *every day in the week*. Thirty or forty little rebels were gathered in, who, for two years

of want and war, had heard nothing of school or church. They very soon learned to recite hymns from the "Soldier's Hymn-book" and chapters from the Testament. The confidence of the inhabitants was in this way secured, and by the distribution of Testaments and tracts among them it is believed real service was done for the Master.

Thus the months of March and April passed away, our work going on successfully at all points, there being none to molest or make us afraid; and yet, as the spring days passed and the roads became hard and settled, we knew that our time there was short, and that what we would do must be done quickly. Reviews of cavalry and infantry came in quick succession—of brigades, divisions, and corps—before Governors of States, members of Congress, and at last before the President himself,—so that we were not taken by surprise when, one May morning, we looked out upon the old camps to find that in the night all had melted away, and nought but crumbling walls and blackened posts remained. It was a thrilling sight, and to us a sad one, as the long lines of infantry, with colors flying, but with the sound of neither fife nor drum, marched steadily and silently away—away for yet another stern grapple with the country's foe.

Nothing more remained for us at the old stations, and so, with haste and many regrets that work so precious must now be sealed up forever, we rolled up our tents, removed our stores, and prepared for our next campaign. It came almost before we were ready for it. After many rumors of as many different movements, we learned that our forces had crossed the Rappahannock and a battle had been fought twelve or fifteen miles up the river. A detachment of our corps of delegates accompanied the army in connection with Gen. Whipple's Division, and were under fire during the battle, taking care of the wounded. A council of the delegates remaining was called, and it was deemed best to divide the force into two parties,—one to go directly to the battle-field, the other to remain at Falmouth, where it was expected a fierce battle would be fought. The plan was soon carried out, and a Government wagon was loaded with such stores as previous experience had shown to be useful, and started

for United States Ford. Threading their way through woods and fields filled with wagons, ambulances, and guns, after a journey of many hours the ford was reached. No wagons were allowed beyond; so the load was taken out, a place for camp selected, and the wagon sent back to Falmouth. There was no lack of work,—on all sides, at every house and barn and shed, in gardens and door-yards, under trees and the shelter of walls, lay wounded and bleeding men. With soap and bandages and pails, strong arms and willing hearts, the services of these delegates were offered to the surgeons in charge and gladly accepted, and from that time were hard at work. Their supply of stimulants and food was soon exhausted, but was reinforced by another wagon-load sent from Falmouth.

The party left behind in the meantime were not idle. The Second and Sixth Corps, storming the heights of Fredericksburg, carried everything before them in victory. The "old flag" waved in triumph from height to height; but in the city the red signals hanging at every corner, at church-doors, and the market-place, told how fearful was the cost,—hospitals on every side, houses filled with the prostrate forms of dying men, who but an hour ago rushed forward to the charge. But why tarry here? No pen can describe such scenes or record such labors.

The history of Chancellorsville is known by all; its gallant achievements, its bitter disappointment, its herculean labors, and its fruitless end.

It is enough to say that the delegates of the Christian Commission worked amid those scenes as any other fathers or brothers would have toiled, had they been permitted to be there.

Wearied and sad, the remnant of the great army came back to the old camps. The old walls are again covered and echo to the sounds of life; but how many whose voices one week before were heard in the cabins and the streets are now forever silent in the soldier's grave!

Field hospitals were now established, or rather enlarged, for the tents had been rising for two or three weeks before the battle, in anticipation of it. The wounded were taken as quickly as might be to the corps hospitals. These hospitals were as extensive as that at Windmill Point, and stretched over greater territory. Miles in some cases intervened between the corps,

and it was found several stations or centres would be necessary to supply them. Here again was a new work for the delegates of the Christian Commission. Three main stations were located in close proximity to the hospitals, and were known as Potomac Creek, Howard, and Brooks Stations.

Aquia Creek was still our base for supplies; but a new tent was pitched beyond and above the fever-breeding marsh, bringing the delegates nearer to the First and Twelfth Corps hospitals. Although at first and for several days the time was chiefly taken up in dressing wounds and helping to bathe and comfort the wounded, a system was soon arranged, giving a certain district or number of tents to each delegate. The first duty was to search out those who needed special articles of diet, or who required new shirts, drawers, or socks, supplying the wants of each personally as they were found from day to day. Boxes of lemons, jars of preserves, and an abundant variety of "good things," put up by friends of the soldier months before, were now given out freely by the hands of the delegates themselves. The stock of the Commission was almost exhausted by the calls made from each station for shirts and socks, bandages and lint, soap and towels, handkerchiefs and slings, dried fruits and preserves, pickles and lemons. Almost everything that the kind hearts of donors had prompted them to send found thankful recipients in these vast field hospitals.

To divert the minds of the convalescing as much as possible from their own condition, *libraries* were sent to the stations, whose books were greatly prized. Funerals, sometimes eight a day, were attended by the delegates, and as a crowd of soldiers gathered about the grave of a comrade the opportunity was not lost of leading their thoughts to the resurrection of the dead, when all should meet again. On the Sabbath, regular religious services were held, some in the open air, some in booths and tents, and each evening at the station chapel a prayer-meeting was held, often crowded to its utmost capacity.

Among the interesting features of this campaign, was the number of letters written for wounded men. The weekly reports show that hundreds of letters were written to home friends, who otherwise would have been left long in anxious suspense and doubt as to the condition of the loved son or husband



whom the papers had reported "*wounded* in the battle of Chancellorsville."

Very exhausting both to mind and body were these incessant labors, and nearly every delegate became worn out by excessive fatigue, and some barely escaped the grave. Those were precious services indeed rendered by the delegates of the Christian Commission, who as pastors and friends came to bring home comforts and spiritual consolation to the thousands of maimed, dying soldiers. *Precious services*, that wealth could never purchase, and for which the Christian Church, east and west, has great reason to rejoice.

Thus week after week passed away, bringing back health, strength, and vigor to many, but closing the earthly career of hundreds of those who lay upon the rude cots of these strange, sad cities of the wounded. The heat of summer followed the delightful days of spring. Still the Army of the Potomac lay quiet and harmless in the old winter camps.

"Why, this looks like a 'move,' captain!" said the field agent to the quartermaster at Falmouth, as an unusual activity was observed. "*And that it is*," was the laconic answer. "When will you require our tent?" "Before five o'clock." "You shall have it, sir." And this was the first intimation the Christian Commission had of that grand movement which in two short weeks formed the Army of the Potomac in line of battle on "Round Top" and "Cemetery Hill." *Two hours* in which to break up housekeeping! Yet in two hours the stores and household implements were packed, and the tent that for six months had been known to us as the "Falmouth Station," was rolled up and "turned in" to the quartermaster.

There was "mounting in hot haste" that afternoon, and a rapid ride from one to another of the seven stations then in operation. "Pack up and strike tents" was the order of the hour, and busy hands made quick work of it. At Potomac Creek was a wonderful chapel, just completed, built by delegates and soldiers, framed of poles cut from the woods and covered with old canvas collected from deserted camps. The next day was the Sabbath, and then this chapel was to be dedicated with

impressive ceremonies; but that night the sky was lurid for hours with the flames of the burning church.

That Sabbath was a busy day! From early dawn till evening was every man in the Commission hard at work. Some were aiding to remove the sick and wounded, who first of all were sent by boat to Washington; others were striking tents, boxing up stores, loading wagons, unloading cars, and finally loading all upon a barge that lay by the wharf, amid such confusion as beggars all description. At night everything was safely loaded, and the next day housed in the "rooms" in Washington.

But there was now no time for rest or delay; before night messengers were on their way to Fairfax Court-house, where was a station of the Commission, and where it was expected the army would be found. Nor were we disappointed. The line of the army extended from Fairfax over the Bull Run battlefield, stretching its right wing nearly to the Potomac.

It was thought by many, that another battle would be fought near the old fields of Bull Run and Chantilly, but a few days revealed the fact that the enemy had crossed the Potomac and were rapidly marching towards Pennsylvania. In the mean time a party of delegates, with a full equipment of stores, had pitched their tent near Fairfax depot. This was not done in vain, for during the four days the tent remained, between five and six hundred wounded and sick men were fed. Being apprised of the coming of long trains of ambulances bearing the wounded, three hundred, who had fallen at Aldie, hot coffee with sugar and milk, together with fresh bread, were waiting the nearly starved sufferers as they reached the cars. Seldom is a feast welcomed with greater joy than was that,—tears of gratitude were upon many cheeks. There was no one else who could have furnished this food to them, and if the Christian Commission had not been at hand, twelve or fifteen hours more would have passed before the poor sufferers, weak and fainting with hunger, would have found food.

On the night following, the feeding of the wounded prisoners taken at Aldie, and our own men who were there wounded, the hospitals of three cavalry brigades lying at Fairfax Court-house, were suddenly broken up, and the patients, between two and three hundred in number, some of them in a dying state, carried in

ambulances, over the roughest of all roads, to Fairfax Station, where many of them lay for hours on the floor of the depot, awaiting transportation to Washington.

The delegates who had been engaged all the previous night in their labor of love, now devoted themselves with fresh zeal to the work of feeding and nursing the wounded, provided, as they were able, for the sick, going around among them, giving them drink—coffee, tea, lemonade—bread spread with sweet butter and tempting preserves, to such as could eat, while speaking words of cheer as they continued their work. Said the master of transportation to one of the delegates, with tears rolling down his cheeks, "I had made up my mind that these Commissions were a humbug, but I tell you what it is, if there is any Christianity it is in the Christian Commission."

Everything was now veiled in obscurity; none could tell where the enemy were. Rumors of all sorts filled the air. Nothing could be done further than to fall back to Washington and Baltimore, prepare a large supply of battle-field stores, and stand ready to start forward whenever the word came.

It came at last, after long days of suspense,—the story of the first day's fight at Gettysburg. At once delegates started for the field, and before the smoke of the battle had cleared away, they were among the mangled forms of the fallen, doing with their might whatever their hands found to do. From this time, every train brought fresh supplies of men and stores, until over three hundred delegates, each assigned to his special post, with ample stores at his disposal, were seeking to alleviate the horrors of that bloody field.

But the work of the Christian Commission at Gettysburg has been described elsewhere by the pen of another, and we will not dwell upon it. Suffice it to say that, as at other fields of like character, the effort to relieve the temporal wants of the dying was blended with Christian counsel and consolation for their spiritual necessities, and as ever before, so here, the Holy Spirit attended such ministrations with the Divine benediction. Besides this corps of delegates among the hospitals of Gettysburg, another strong force, with ample and well-selected stores, followed the army in its pursuit of the enemy to the Potomac, but were spared the painful sights and duties for which they were prepared.

Two or three weeks now elapsed, before a new force was organized for effort in the army, which was then on its way from the Potomac River to Warrenton City. Nearly the entire force of the Commission was directed to Gettysburg, and to the supply of the permanent stations, so that but little material remained for a new effort, and as the old line of supply was entirely broken up, and the army so constantly in motion, new machinery was required, and a new plan to be matured. The last week in July, however, everything was in readiness, and with the new four-horse wagon, compactly stowed with tents and stores of hospital supplies and religious reading, a party of delegates left Washington for Warrenton Junction over the "pike." Going into camp, the first night, near Fairfax Court-house in company with a long train of wagons, heavily loaded with valuable goods, a circumstance occurred, that for a time promised to change the plans of the Commission quite materially. About midnight, a party of guerillas, with oaths, and revolvers in hand, dashed into camp, and were soon escorting the whole train, at a rapid pace, on the direct road to Richmond.

A "station" at "Libby" seemed the most probable result of the adventure. But a kind Providence, just as all hope of rescue was failing, delivered them out of the hands of their enemies, and they were, as the morning dawned, started once more on their way rejoicing. On the 2d of August, too weary to go farther, a tent was pitched near headquarters of the army at Germantown, where it remained as a useful station of the Commission until the 14th of September. A footing secured, and with the prospect of a month of quiet rest for the army, several stations were at once established,—one at Warrenton City, one among the hospitals of the First Corps at Rappahannock, another at Bealeton, and after a few weeks a fifth in the Third Army Corps. The sick of the army were not retained in the field, but sent at once to the hospitals of Washington; so that for six weeks the attentions of the delegates were mostly directed to the wants of the well. Many thousands of Testaments, hymn books, and religious papers were distributed throughout each corps, and meetings were organized and sustained at many places. At the chapel-tent at Bealeton, chaplains' meetings were held weekly, twenty or thirty being sometimes pre-

sent. It was the constant aim of the Commission, as it had ever been, to do all in its power to assist, encourage, and strengthen the hands of these devoted men, who, through summer's heat and winter's cold, have shared the perils and discomforts of the army life with those whom they desire to benefit, and who have had in too many instances to stand up alone against an active opposition, such as few servants of Christ in these days are called upon to meet.

At the tent in the Third Corps a most interesting scene was presented, the chapel being crowded at every service, soldiers coming from a distance to hear the truth proclaimed, and the Holy Spirit making this truth effectual to the conversion of many.

The work at all of these stations—each one useful and instrumental, we believe, in leading many souls to Christ,—was brought to an end in the middle of September by another advance of the army beyond Culpeper and to the banks of the Rapidan.

Extensive rooms were secured in the village for the office and warerooms of the Commission, and every preparation made for the battle that was each day expected. The cavalry was constantly in action, and every church in the village, besides the large Piedmont Hotel, was filled with their wounded and sick. Among these men for many days the delegates found such opportunities for relieving distress as are seldom presented. Hundreds were supplied with food prepared at the Commission rooms, and taken from ward to ward by the delegates themselves. Indeed in very many respects the work resembled that performed at the field hospitals in Falmouth five months before. Hundreds of letters were written for the feeble men, clothing and food were given to those found to be destitute, and religious counsel and comfort freely bestowed. Daily prayers were held in each ward of the hospitals, and an abundance of religious reading circulated. In addition to this, committees were appointed to visit different parts of the army with the supplies of papers as they were received, and many services were held in distant camps. As is the almost invariable custom of the Commission, a prayer-meeting was held each evening at the station, which soon became, as usual, a centre of great interest.

Very suddenly came "the advance" we were expecting, and

in a very unexpected direction. With scarcely time to send our superabundant stores to the cars, we were ordered off, and with a wagon loaded down heavily we started, upon what proved to be a most rapid and exciting retreat, into the line of wagons,—mules going on the run, flanked by columns of infantry, cavalry, and artillery; men on foot and men on horseback; officers, soldiers, sutlers, and contrabands, all mixed up in this grand exodus, and all intent to reach the eastern bank of the Rappahannock. Few scenes are more exciting than the retreat of the wagon-trains of an army,—the rapid run, the startling rumor, the sound of the approaching guns, the breaking wheel or overturn, the quivering bridges, poised high in air over some mountain stream, the deep “runs,” where teams are “set” and left to the mercy of crushing wheels behind, give variety and interest to every mile of the road.

We started Sabbath morning, and on Thursday reached Fairfax Court-house, with our wagon shorn of its beauty, bearing away visible scars from the exciting contest. Stores were safe, and men were all right after a hearty meal and a day of sleep.

“Centreville Heights,” the goal for which the armies were racing, was gained by the Army of the Potomac, and the rebels, satisfying themselves with the destruction of a railroad, slowly fell back to the Rappahannock. Some tedious days of uncertainty followed. The army, by slow stages, advanced, but with no expectation of meeting the enemy in force.

In the last week of the month a station was established at Gainesville, but was soon moved thence to Manassas Junction, and the first week in November transferred to Warrenton Junction. A few days of suspense were usefully employed by the delegates in making an extended distribution of religious reading and in holding evening meetings, that were largely attended and blessed to the conversion of some souls.

On the 7th day of November, after a sharp fight, the army crossed the Rappahannock and took up the old line of defence along the Rapidan.

A party started for the field hospitals with a wagon-load of stores, and after working two days among the wounded, went forward to Brandy, and established a new station.

For the next fortnight, the headquarters of the Commission

were at Brandy Station. A very large quantity of reading matter was there distributed, and from the station the clerical delegates went out to distant camps to preach.

Evident it was, however, that the campaign was not yet ended, and arrangements were perfected, so that the Commission could go with the army whenever it should again advance.

Two four-horse wagons were carefully loaded, principally with condensed food, stimulants and clothing; and a party was selected from the delegates to go forward. It was arranged that the remaining delegates should return to Alexandria by rail, and be ready to open communication with the army at the first point of supply, wherever it might be. Either Aquia Creek or Fredericksburg was, by many persons, supposed to be the destination of the army.

Early on Thanksgiving morning, the troops were moving. The tents were struck, the horses harnessed, final arrangements made, and at noon we joined the long line of headquarter wagons, and started out upon a journey whose destination was veiled in utter obscurity. The next day the Rapidan was safely passed, and "Robinson's Tavern," a wooden structure at the intersection of two roads in the "Wilderness," was reached the following morning. Here everything came to a full stop. The Third Corps crossing the river a few miles to the right of us, were attacked on the second day, and a fight of unusual severity resulted.

The wounded, numbering five or six hundred, were taken from the field and placed in ambulances, parked in a field about one mile from the Tavern. The weather was very cold, the nights being intensely bitter, and the condition of the wounded was truly pitiable. Blankets were unusually scarce, and in the morning it was a sad sight to see the chilled and shivering sufferers. A large fireplace was soon built, and all were busy preparing hot milk punch, and hot coffee, or in taking it from wagon to wagon until it was too late to do more. Early in the morning the same course was pursued. Milk punch was given freely, by the request and approval of the surgeons, and coffee, made nutritious with milk and sugar, was taken to all.

In some cases the division wagon containing food and cooking utensils was delayed in coming to the hospital, so that there

were some almost entirely dependent upon the Christian Commission for food. On Sunday and Monday, most of the wounded were removed from ambulances and laid in hospital tents; but the suffering from cold was still very great. All this time we were expecting the great battle would begin. Both armies were in position, and although the line of defence held by the enemy was very strong, it was expected an assault would be made, and we thought with sinking hearts of the unspeakable agony that must then ensue. Cut off entirely from any base of supply, food and forage already, in some places, beginning to fail, and the cold becoming more and more intense, we could but hope most earnestly that the cup might this time pass away.

Tuesday, the order came to return. The wounded were placed again in ambulances, and we repacked our wagons and took the place assigned to us at the head of the train, thus avoiding delay when coming to a halt at night.

All day we were jolting over such roads as we believe seldom fell to the lot of wounded men before. We could not endure the sight of these poor, exhausted men, sore and faint from wounds, tossed and thrown from side to side of their ambulance beds, all that long, long day. The Rapidan was recrossed in safety, and as the night came on, the train was parked in a field near its banks.

It was already late, and not a moment to be lost. A fire was kindled, water heated, buckets of milk punch prepared and taken to those most exhausted. Coffee and soda biscuit—carefully husbanded for the occasion—were then distributed in all parts of the camp.

Early in the morning the same work was repeated until the order to march was given, and we had barely time to take our place in the train.

Another day's cruel march. Until near midnight cutting our way through almost impassable swamps and forests, at length, as we could get no further, we were ordered into park on a low, flat marsh. An unpromising place it was! No wood, no water, and yet something *must* be prepared for those men, who, many of them starting off without a breakfast, have undergone the pains of hunger all this long day, else they will surely perish! Wood is sought and found a quarter of a mile away, and brought



on shoulders to the camp. A detail of soldiers is given, and they, after a long hunt in the darkness, return with pails of water. The fire is kindled, the water heated, and brandy punch made, and taken from ambulance to ambulance, until at two o'clock in the morning, it is declared that all have been reached.

In the morning the promise is given us that the train shall not start until we have fed them all. More extensive arrangements for a breakfast are made, the remaining barrels of crackers are opened, and, with hot coffee, distributed throughout the train.

Brandy Station, left behind us just one week before, as we then hoped, forever, was again welcomed as a link once more connecting us with a civilized world. One week previously we had gone forth with heavy loads and minds doubtful of the way before us. Now we returned with wagons empty and hearts full of gratitude that we had been privileged to minister to so many suffering soldiers. A tent was pitched near to the ambulances, and until the wounded were loaded upon the cars the delegates remained with them, and then accompanying them to Alexandria helped to convey them to comfortable beds at the hospitals. Such expressions of gratitude are seldom heard as fell from a hundred lips that night. The badge of the Christian Commission was a sure passport to the heart of any one of those who passed through that terrible ordeal during those "seven days in the wilderness." "Winter quarters" are at length ordered, the active campaign is closed, and the quiet winter days are to follow its months of toil and blood.

The winter work of the Christian Commission is again organized. With Brandy Station as a base for supplies, stations are already established in central parts of the army, and chapel-tents are already filled by earnest worshippers. The plan for the winter embraces the following items: Preaching the Gospel to troops destitute of chaplains; thorough distribution of religious reading; constant and personal inspection of field hospitals; assistance given chaplains in the erection of brigade or regimental churches.

Upon the action taken in Christian churches and in Christian homes depends, to a great extent, the success of this great plan.

Thus hastily and imperfectly have we sketched the main out-

lines of the work of the Christian Commission in the Army of the Potomac the past year. As we look back over its history, we see nothing for which to glory; but we see very much for which to be thankful to God in that He has seen fit to own and bless efforts that have been made in weakness. And as we look forward to the coming year, it is with hope and an expectation of still greater blessings at His hand.

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The high appreciation of such services as those of the delegates for the sufferers who fell wounded at Mine Run, as described on page 48, is generously expressed in the following letter of Charles E. Cady, Surgeon-in-chief, Second Brigade, Third Division, Third Corps; to which it is altogether appropriate here to add the earlier letter of General Meade:

DR. CADY TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

HEADQUARTERS

SECOND BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION, THIRD CORPS,

December 13, 1863.

DEAR SIR: A sense of duty compels me to thank, through you, the noble Christian Commission for the assistance afforded by its agent to the wounded of this brigade, before and during the late retrograde movement of the army from the Rapidan.

The wagon of the Commission was constantly at the hospital, in the field, and with the ambulance train during the retreat, and your agents seemed indefatigable in dispensing necessary food, medicine, bandages, stimulants, &c., to our wounded and sick, and I know that, through their enterprise and humanity, a great amount of suffering was alleviated. For six days and nights your agents were constantly employed in their work of Christian mercy; six bitter cold days and nights did they labor without cessation.

In the name of the wounded of my brigade, I tender you and the Commission most hearty thanks.

I am, dear sir, truly yours,

CHARLES E. CADY,

Surgeon-in-chief,

Second Brigade, Third Division, Third Corps.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

President Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

GENERAL MEADE TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

August 5, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART,

Chairman United States Christian Commission, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

DEAR SIR: I received recently, through the hands of Mr. Cole, your kind letter of the 27th ult. It will afford me very great pleasure to render you every encouragement and facility in my power to prosecute the good and holy work you have entered upon.

I assure you, no one looks with more favor upon the true Christian, who ministers to the spiritual wants of the dying or the physical wants of the wounded, than those who are most instrumental in the line of their duty in causing this suffering; hence you may rest satisfied that in this army your agents and assistants will receive every co-operation, and be treated with all the consideration due the important and noble work they are engaged upon.

I shall be glad to hear from you whenever anything occurs requiring my action, and shall always be ready, as far as the exigencies of the service and my authority will permit, to comply with your wishes.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

GEO. G. MEADE,

Major-General Commanding.

## THE PENNSYLVANIA INVASION.

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WHERE war interest concentrates, there Christian Commission work is demanded.

Gettysburg is the one memorable place in the history of the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee and his hosts, both as the scene of the mighty conflict which hurled back the invaders and of the vast beneficent work of the Christian Commission in relieving those who fell wounded of both armies in the battle, and giving to them the comforts of the Gospel.

HARRISBURG, however, for a time was the absorbing place of interest and work. Next in importance to Philadelphia, the point of expected attack, the capital of the State, it was made the great gathering place of militia to repel the invasion, and of course also the gathering place of the good Samaritans of the Commission, with their warm hearts, ready hands, their oil and their wine. It was unknown where the rebel chief intended to strike. No one expected him to be overtaken by the national army at the little quiet college town of Gettysburg. Least of all, probably, did the citizens themselves anticipate the array of the contending lines on either side of them, with the boom of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the hail of bullets, shot, and shell over and around them. Fitzhugh Lee had pushed north without resistance, taken York, sent a detachment to the Susquehanna opposite Columbia, checked there only by the burning of the bridge, and Carlisle was occupied. Everything seemed to indicate the Susquehanna as the probable line of defence on the north, and Harrisburg as the first prominent prize to be sought by the oncoming hordes.

The emergency drew together many thousands of men from New York and New Jersey, as well as from the different and distant sections of Pennsylvania. The call was so sudden that

they came, of course, poorly prepared for the vicissitudes of the march, the camp, or the battle. Many of them, fresh from counting rooms, law offices, and shops, would be sure to suffer and fall by the way long before they should be exposed to the hail-storm of death. The Government, however energetic and prompt, could not give the timely individual personal relief the circumstances required. Counselling with the authorities, military and medical, and with some of the wise and good men of the city, the good Samaritans of the Commission set up their own "inn," in the form of an immense tent, in which between two and three thousand could gather at one time for worship. This served many purposes. Whole regiments were lodged in it of men who were unaccustomed to exposure, and who must have been entirely without shelter but for our tent. The sick were cared for here until they could be transferred to the hospital or enabled to return to the ranks. Hungry wayfarers were refreshed. A free writing table was opened where hundreds, indeed thousands, were supplied with stationery and stamps, and enabled to write how it fared with them, to relieve the anxious ones at home. Testaments, books, papers, and tracts were supplied to those who needed and wished them, and religious services were held three times a day,—two for conference and prayer, and one for preaching. The best speakers possible were obtained to address these meetings, and the great tent was often so crowded that it was difficult to obtain a seat in it.

This establishment was in Camp Curtin, and from it, as a centre, delegates and supplies (especially of reading matter) were sent out to all the fortifications around the city.

When the number of sick and wounded carried through the city began to be large, a commodious three-story brick building near the railroad depot was rented and fitted up with beds, and with every convenience for cooking food and serving it to the hungry in large numbers at short notice. Here much suffering was relieved,—the weary were refreshed and strengthened for further fatigue.

The following letters from Lieut. Col. Ramsey, Major Ralston, and Governor Curtin, will show—the first, the value of the work in Camp Curtin, as it passed under the eyes of the officer in command; the second, the estimation in which the work in the sur-

rounding military positions was held by those for whom it was done; and the last, the impression made by the "Soldiers' Rest," near the railroad depot, upon the mind and heart of the patriot Governor of Pennsylvania.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP CURTIN,  
July 21, 1863.

Our quarters having been in immediate proximity to the Union Tabernacle Tent of the Christian Commission, we have watched the efforts to accommodate the men in camp, and desire to bear our testimony to the great benefits conferred through this channel upon the large numbers of soldiers gathered here. Though this sphere is less prominently before the eye of the public than the battle-field, its unobtrusive usefulness in meeting just those wants experienced by men suddenly called upon to leave home and friends, has been such as to draw forth the warmest commendations of all who have come within a knowledge of its operations. To those who have so liberally supported this noble and patriotic charity with funds, we beg leave to give the assurance that we not only have seen nothing like waste or unnecessary expenditure, but, on the contrary, have confidence that the money used in this department has been expended with judgment, and in such a way as to accomplish the greatest amount of good.

It would not be doing justice did we not mention the names of the gentlemen that have had charge of the tent. To Messrs. Horace J. Smith, Rev. J. H. Meacham, and others whose names we cannot recall, we owe many obligations.

J. F. RAMSEY,  
Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Camp Curtin, Pa.

A. C. MAGER,  
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS FORTY-NINTH REGT. PENNA. MILITIA,  
PITTSBURGH, August 9, 1863.

HORACE J. SMITH, ESQ.,  
Philadelphia.

DEAR SIR: I wish to acknowledge through you the very kind services rendered by the Christian Commission to the soldiers of Company A, of which I was formerly captain, in giving them

shelter from the rain on arriving at Camp Curtin, and immediately supplying them with hot coffee.

From my own observation during my stay at Camp Curtin and Fort Washington, the Commission, in their free distribution of writing materials, tracts, and Testaments to all, and their kind attention to sick soldiers, are doing a work which should enlist the sympathy of every true Christian.

Thanking you for your own personal attentions to myself and the men under my command,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. RALSTON,

Major Forty-ninth Penna. State Militia.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA.,  
August 5, 1863.

HORACE J. SMITH, Esq.,

Harrisburg, Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The good work performed by your Commission has been made so manifest as to require no written testimonials. Its witnesses are throughout the army and amid the thousands of homes which, in all parts of our country, have sent their sons, fathers, and brothers to swell the number of our national defenders.

I cannot, however, refrain from expressing my earnest gratification at hearing of your "Rest" at this place, and the pleasure which I derived from my recent visit to it. The benefits of the establishment are of the most practical character, and reach a class whose wants never can be adequately accommodated but by such an arrangement. The travelling soldier, often without means and reduced by sickness, should not be allowed to suffer, nor be left to the chances of individual assistance.

Your "Rest" invites him with a welcome, renews his strength, and sends him on his way rejoicing. The good to be done in this way is incalculable, and I cannot forbear saying to you how highly I estimate its practical usefulness and wish for its continued success. Whenever I can take a moment of leisure amidst the pressure of official duties, it will afford me real gratification to again visit your establishment.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. CURTIN.

CAMP CURTIN, July 24, 1863.

## TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

I cannot leave this camp without expressing my gratitude and thanks to the managers for their kindness to the returning soldier in administering to his temporal and spiritual wants in manifold ways.

My own experience is that of thousands. I came to this camp care-worn and weary, sick in body and mind; you received me as a brother, furnished me with reading matter of a noble character, preached the pure words of the Gospel, and manifested that brotherly sympathy so much needed by the soldier returning from the scenes of blood and carnage.

Go on, Christian brethren, and God will bless you in your labor of love.

GEO. B. AMIDON,

Sergeant Company H, 169th Penna. State Militia.

P. S. As soon as circumstances will permit, I will make a liberal donation to Commission.

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CARLISLE was also a place of some excitement and interest just on the eve of the great battle. It was first occupied and evacuated by a part of Lee's army; then occupied by our militia under General Smith, and attacked by Fitzhugh Lee, but not taken. Four delegates of the Christian Commission followed the command of General Smith from Harrisburg, overtook them on the way and marched with them into Carlisle. The citizens met them with the greatest demonstrations of joy, cheered them, and brought out refreshments for them. Quickly, however, the cry came, "The rebels are upon us!" and the citizens dispersed, leaving the refreshments behind.

The first salutation by Lee was the booming of his cannon. He planted his guns to sweep the main street, where the Union troops were stationed. His fire was returned by one gun of Landis's battery placed in the street. After four shots, General Smith gave orders to cease, and kept the enemy at bay by fear of a trap. Fourteen of our men were wounded; two of them mortally. The wounded were conveyed to the College, where, under direction of Dr. Neill, they were tenderly cared for by



the delegates of the Christian Commission and citizens of the town. Singularly enough, the first man wounded, and the first to receive aid from the delegates, was young Stuart Patterson, the son of Joseph Patterson, Treasurer of the Christian Commission.

This was Wednesday afternoon and night, the very time when the great battle was begun at Gettysburg; and that night, or rather next morning at 3 o'clock, Fitzhugh Lee hastily withdrew toward the scene of conflict, probably recalled by an order from his chief.

Before entering upon the history of the Good Samaritan work on the great field, it may be well to follow on with that which was done for the command of General Smith on its march toward the anticipated scene of a second great battle on the banks of the Potomac.

Part of the delegates returned from Carlisle with the sick and wounded sent to Harrisburg. John Patterson, however, went on with the troops. At Pine Grove, a wheelwright's shop was obtained near Watt's iron furnace, and about forty disabled men gathered into it. They had lain twenty-four hours without food or care. Mr. Patterson distributed to them all his remaining stores, and greatly relieved them. Subsequently, at Hagerstown, where other delegates were sent, essential service was rendered to Dr. Neill in bringing order out of the confusion he found in the hospital, and in benefiting the sick and wounded under his charge. Of this the following letter gives gratifying evidence:

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. W. F. SMITH'S FORCES,  
HAGERSTOWN, MD., August 10, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

President United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The opportune kindnesses which have been conferred on the sick and wounded of this command, have been so numerous that I should be unmindful of my duty did I not make to you some acknowledgment.

The rapidity with which the emergency troops were organized, and the want of those comforts with which the old organizations of veteran troops are always provided, rendered the personal assistance of the members of the Christian Commission, as well

as their contributions in delicacies and comforts, particularly grateful at the bombardment of Carlisle.

In the Department of Western Virginia, at Hagerstown, and at Williamsport, where there are now large numbers of wounded left by both armies, your representatives were most efficient, and to the United States Christian and Sanitary Commissions suffering soldiers, both Union and rebel, owe many thanks.

The willingness of your agents to receive instructions and to co-operate with the medical officers in the performance of laborious and responsible duties, must render them at all times most welcome assistants to army surgeons.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. NEILL,

Surgeon United States Volunteers and Medical Director.

## GETTYSBURG.

Introductory to the report of the principal work of the United States Christian Commission on the bloody field of Gettysburg, the following letter of R. G. McCreary, Esq., will be of great historic interest and value. Mr. McCreary is a prominent citizen and lawyer of that place, was one of the most indefatigable laborers through all the time that the Commission retained direct control of the work, and subsequently took the entire supervision of it as chairman of the Army Committee to whom it was assigned, when the field agents of the Commission were withdrawn for other and more urgent service elsewhere.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: Our Christian Commission work here is finished; the thousands of wounded men lately around us have gone; the tents that whitened our fields have been removed; the "pomp and circumstance of war," infantry, artillery, cavalry, ambulance and army wagon, have disappeared from our streets; all have gone save the "unreturning brave," whose bivouac covers the slope of Cemetery Hill, and the thousands of their deluded

foes, who, with valor worthy of a better cause, threw away their lives in vain efforts to break the wall of fire and steel which crossed their path to victory, and whose undistinguished graves dot and scar the landscape for miles around.

Being resident here, my work commenced with the movements preceding the great struggle of the first days of July, which decided the fate of the national capital, and probably of the Southern Confederacy. For several days previous the movements of detached portions of the hostile armies, like scudding clouds whose rapid and diverse flight precede and portend the hurricane, seemed plainly to indicate the approach of the tremendous conflict of those days. On the 26th day of June a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers arrived from Harrisburg, and marched to Marsh Creek on the Chambersburg turnpike, from which direction it was understood a portion of the rebel army threatened an advance. After their departure, my attention was called to two young men lying in a wet and dirty apartment at the railroad station, sick and unable to travel. I had them immediately taken to my house and put to bed, where, by medical skill and careful nursing, they were so far recovered in a few days as to be able to join a party of their comrades in a successful attempt to reach their regiment, which in the meantime had made a hasty retreat before the advance of Early's division of Ewell's corps, which occupied the town on the 26th of June, and the next day moved on towards the Susquehanna. Two days later a brigade of cavalry under General Kopelin arrived from the direction of Frederick, Maryland, and, as they expected a fight and had no hospital stores, at the request of their surgeon a number of our ladies were assembled, and the Sabbath was spent in the preparation of lint and bandages. They were not needed, however, as the cavalry fell back the next morning; but the supply thus provided proved very valuable a few days later.

In the morning of the 30th of June, a strong reconnoitering force of rebels advanced on the Chambersburg turnpike to the Seminary ridge overlooking the town; they interrogated a citizen as to the presence of "Yankee soldiers," and were told that there were a great many in the neighborhood. This information, false in fact, and intended to deceive, may have prevented them

from taking possession of the town at that time, and they fell back several miles towards the mountains.

In the afternoon of the same day, Buford's cavalry division entered the town from the south, and passed a mile to the northwest on the Chambersburg and Manassasburg turnpikes, and halted for the night. Their medical officer requested accommodations for six or eight men of the command who were sick. I procured the use of the railroad depot, and with a couple of assistants soon had it cleared out and twenty comfortable beds carried in and arranged, and they were soon all filled with suffering men, for whom an abundant supply of suitable food and delicacies was speedily furnished by the families in the neighborhood, until the events of the succeeding day caused them to be removed to the rear of our army.

The battle on the first of July commenced about the middle of the forenoon between the rebels advancing on the Chambersburg turnpike and Buford's cavalry, who, as the infantry of the First Army Corps came up and formed in line of battle, slowly retired to the rear. The approaching storm was watched with intense anxiety by the citizens, who, crowding to their house-tops, cheered the advance of our brave troops; but it was not long until the boom of cannon, the bursting of shell, the rattle and crash of heavy infantry firing along the ridges west of the town, and the stream of litters which began to move in from the field of carnage, brought them to realize the fact that a fierce and bloody contest was in progress.

Descending from my chimney-top, and gathering up a basket of bandages, with basin, sponge, scissors, and pins, I hastened to the nearest hospital, which I found in a warehouse about two hundred yards from my residence. I went to work with my coat off, and saw no more of the battle until the middle of the afternoon, though there was abundant evidence in the many mangled and bleeding forms constantly coming in, and the louder and increasing crash of arms, that the conflict was a most terrible one, and was rapidly approaching the town. At length, the frequent explosion of shells in the immediate neighborhood—one of them passing through a corner of the warehouse—reminded me that I had a wife and family of children under fire, and therefore, reluctantly leaving my work, I hastened to look after them.

Finding all safe, I ascended to the house-top for another view of the battle, and found that our army was falling back, and soon the rush and roar of the retreat and battle in the streets banished everything else from our minds. That was a terrible night. Our army had been driven back; the town was full of armed enemies. We saw and heard the progress of pillage all around us, and knew not how far it might proceed; but we trusted in the Lord and were safe.

The morning of July the second revealed a dreadful sight,—dead horses and dead men lay about the streets, and there were none to bury them. Our first care was for the multitude of wounded men now suffering for want of food. I sallied forth, taking care to lock the door after me. Arms and armor were strewn around and trodden into the mud. I found the bakeries were in the hands of the rebels, and not a loaf or cracker remained; the butchers' cattle had been driven away or confiscated, and no meat could be procured; the groceries were broken open, and their contents carried away or destroyed by troops of rebels, who, like hungry wolves, roamed through the streets in search of plunder. The citizens had freely distributed to our own soldiers for several days previous, and had little left in their houses, and, as we were entirely cut off from the world without the rebel lines, there was no possibility of procuring a supply; but they did what they could, even denying their own families food in order to give something to the suffering men. In my own family, in anticipation of what had occurred, we had a good supply of coffee and other articles now most needful; a twelve-gallon boiler was many times replenished, and its contents carried in buckets to the different hospitals within reach, and with baskets of bread and other edibles distributed among the men, served to relieve the pangs of hunger in many a brave sufferer.

In the rear of my residence is an open lot, on which a rebel commissary cut up and distributed beef to a company or battalion of cavalry quartered near. My wife solicited and obtained from him the beef-bones left on the ground, and had them conveyed to her kitchen, and there washed, cut up, and speedily converted into excellent beef-soup, until in this way probably one hundred gallons of this nourishing food had been distributed to the different hospitals, thus furnishing a most grate-

ful and timely relief to the poor fellows, many of whom were not in condition to partake of solid food.

Our surgeons, who remained with these men and permitted themselves to be taken prisoners, were greatly embarrassed for want of medical supplies, as the rebels would not or could not supply any, and instances were mentioned in which they carried off those provided for our men. The ladies of the town freely devoted their linen and muslin goods to supply bandages and lint; but the lack of medicines was not so easily remedied.

In one of the hospitals were several cases requiring operations, in which anodynes were necessary, and I undertook to find any that might be in town. Calling at a drug store which was closed, the owner came to the door, and said he had nothing of the kind in the house, and added in a whisper, "Call again; there is a rebel officer in the store searching for some." At another establishment I succeeded in getting a pound of chloroform, which was brought from some mysterious hiding-place, and for which the owner declined accepting any compensation.

Allow me here to remark, that the stories which have been published charging the people of this town with a want of hospitality toward the soldiers, are basely false. I do not believe any community has exhibited more generous devotion towards those thrown upon their hands. The circumstances in which they were placed made it impossible for them to afford full relief, but to the extent of their ability, as a general rule, and beyond their ability, they hesitated not to contribute in aid of the suffering multitudes around them. In those days of suffering I gathered bread from house to house, and the last loaf and half loaf was always cheerfully given. In every community there are heartless and sordid persons to be found, and doubtless there are such here; but they are exceptions. In the Army of the Potomac there were skulkers, who, when their comrades were fighting, hung in the rear and plundered the farm-houses. Shall we therefore charge that noble army with cowardice and robbery? Not less unjust is it to accuse the citizens of Gettysburg of faults which a few individuals may have committed. During the battle of the first day, when the rebel shells were shrieking and bursting around the hospitals, even the women were found in the midst of the wounded men as they were carried

in from the field, doing all in their power to administer to their comfort; and from that time all through those terrible days, and afterwards down to the close, in every hospital in town and around it, at all times, with a devotion that never flagged, nor counted any sacrifice too great, our noble women were found, like angels of mercy, binding up wounds and administering cordials and viands, with gentle words of sympathy, more grateful to the sufferers than even the food necessary for their subsistence. Ask the many hundreds of wounded men who filled the warehouses, halls, churches, and so many of the private dwellings of the town during this trying period, what they think of the hospitality of the people of Gettysburg, and I am sure the citizens will be satisfied with their verdict.

The rebels, though disposed to help themselves, were generally civil and even respectful towards the citizens. A circumstance, however, occurred in the forenoon of Friday, July 3d, which for a while seemed likely to produce trouble. A soldier of a Virginia regiment, sitting in front of the Franklin House, on the public square, was shot through the breast by a minie ball fired by a sharp-shooter in a house near the Cemetery, a full half mile distant. As he lay writhing in agony, a crowd of his comrades gathered around, and insisted that he had been shot from some of the houses near the square, and threatened summary vengeance. I had gone to render any possible aid to the dying man; but finding that nothing could be done for him, was bathing his face when the excitement arose. I remonstrated with them, and after some time succeeded in convincing them that they were mistaken, and the affair passed off with apparently sincere thanks for my kindness to the dying man. The practice of sharp-shooting made it sometimes dangerous for persons on the streets. I had the day previous experienced a narrow escape from injury. As I was passing with my basket of bandages along Baltimore Street, I was greeted with the peculiar sound of a minie close by my ear, and at the instant a drooping twig was cut by it from a tree just in front of me. The incident did not prevent my going the same round again; but it made me careful to walk as close as convenient to the walls of the houses.

The rebel officers, until Friday, seemed to be entirely confi-

dent of success. One of them said to me in the forenoon of Thursday that they would not remain with us more than a few hours, as General Lee had his plan of battle nearly arranged, and they would move forward, and he seemed to think with assured success. He said they had one hundred thousand men on this field, and boasted of their complete appointments and invincibility. The same night, at a late hour, several officers on horseback stopped in front of my dwelling, where several gentlemen, anxious for information, entered into conversation with them; they were in good spirits, and said they had advanced both wings of their army and had taken one of our batteries in the centre; they extolled General Lee as the great master of the military art, and spoke of his admirable strategy in making a grand feint towards Philadelphia, in order to concentrate his army here for an attack on Baltimore and Washington. About this time a squad of soldiers passing were halted, and asked to what they belonged. They replied to the Second Louisiana Brigade. They were then asked if they had taken that battery, and they replied that they had to "come out," and could not take it. The officers were silent. These men said the next day that they had but fifty men left in their brigade after that assault; they were the "Louisiana Tigers," of whom those officers had boasted that *they had never been driven back in a charge, and never would be.*

A great many of the rebel soldiers seemed to have no affection for the service, and would gladly leave it if possible. This we found by conversation with their wounded men in the hospitals, and did space permit, many incidents might be related showing that this feeling is common in the army, and that the soldiers are kept in the ranks solely by force of stern and inexorable military law. A gentleman living in the south end of the town, whose house was occupied by rebel sharp-shooters, who drove him and his family into the cellar, relates that, creeping out after dark to feed his cow, he encountered one of these men alone in the stable, and entered into conversation with him. He declared that he had been compelled to enter the army, and wept when he spoke of his wife and children, from whom he had been forced away; he was anxious to be assisted in getting within our lines; but that was impossible, as the intervening



space was covered by the fire of the pickets of both armies. The next morning our skirmishers advanced and killed or captured this entire party, and this man's rifle was found two-thirds filled with cartridges, showing that he had refused to fire at the Union troops.

On Friday night the rebel army quickly withdrew from the town to the crest of the Seminary ridge, and at daylight our skirmishers drove out or captured their stragglers and pickets. It was truly a joyful morning to the citizens, who felt as if some dreadful incubus had been removed; and though it was a day of alarm from the apprehension that the rebel batteries might open on the town, still it was evident that they were retreating, and that relief was at hand. As soon as the town was clear of the rebel lines, supplies began to come in, and those in hospitals here were made as comfortable as circumstances permitted; but there was still in the fields—the scene of the first day's fight—a large number who for two days more could not be reached, and whose sufferings must have been beyond description severe.

R. G. McCREARY.

The battle of Gettysburg was fought on three successive days (July 1, 2 and 3, 1863), resulting in a decisive Federal victory, though with great loss on both sides. The whole number killed, wounded, and missing was about 60,000,—two-thirds Rebel. The wounded of the two armies left to be cared for numbered more than 20,000. God was in the tide of the battle; but He was no less in the vast machinery and material of relief speedily called into existence to supply the demands created by it. Two armies, one of 60,000, the other of 90,000 men, with scanty supplies of food and medicine, and these selected without special reference to the wants of wounded men, had met in mortal conflict. The field of combat was in a country rich in the products of the soil, though now barren as a wilderness. Near the largest cities of the continent, with their exhaustless supplies, it was yet completely isolated, and consequently destitute. While the dead still lay unburied by the highways, and the helpless wounded upon the field were numbered by thousands, the call of the bugle summoned the victors to pursuit, the strong soldier from the side of the dying, the loved comrade from re-

ceiving the last messages of affection for friends at home, the faithful surgeon from the pierced skull, the mangled flesh, and the broken limb. Could it be possible that only twenty men of all classes and ranks were detailed to minister to the wants of the three thousand who were wounded in a single corps? Yet so it was, for it was whispered that this was but the beginning of the issue; that we were upon the eve of other and bloodier battles.

The Christian Commission in occupying the field thus necessarily abandoned by our army only enlarged the operations which it had already begun. Two of the delegates of the Commission, Rev. B. B. Howard, a brother of Major-General Howard, and Rev. J. G. Chamberlain, both from Maine, having accompanied the army in its march from Leesburg, were on the ground during the entire progress of the battle, and gave their personal attention to the wants of the wounded as they fell. At the same time, R. G. McCreary, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Gettysburg, instead of seeking a place of safety for himself, directed all his efforts to the alleviation of the sufferings of those who were wounded in the first day's fight, while attempting to defend and hold the town. Officers and men who were aided by these delegates, have repeatedly spoken of the assistance they received during the battle from the Christian Commission, and of the probability of their death had they not been thus aided.

Soon after the conflict ceased an additional number of delegates, who had followed the army from Aquia Creek and Fairfax, with supplies, reached the field by way of Baltimore and Westminster. At Westminster, meeting hundreds of the wounded from the battle-field, without a surgeon to care for them, a part halted and assisted in the establishment of hospitals in that place, and in providing for the wants of their inmates. Among those to whom they ministered were Major-General Hancock and his aid, General Miller. After much difficulty, through the aid of General Buford, a party of delegates arrived with their stores at the hospital of the Second Corps. These stores they divided among the wounded of the Second, Third, and Fifth Corps, and thus relieved the wants of many a poor soldier, while pointing him to Jesus, before supplies or laborers arrived from any other source.

During Saturday and Sunday delegates continued to arrive, walking, some of them, nearly fifteen miles, through mud and rain, in order to be at their posts the sooner. On Monday, F. E. Shearer, Esq., agent of the Commission at Washington, D. C., reached the town of Gettysburg, where he found a number of the delegates already occupied in the hospitals, with the centre of their operations at the office of R. G. Harper, Esq., editor of the "Adams Sentinel." Through the aid of Mr. J. Bevan, Mr. Shick's store was soon obtained as a depot for supplies, the only such depot in town till another was opened by Adams' Express Company, twenty-four hours afterwards, and a third twelve hours later still by the Sanitary Commission. The neighboring auxiliaries of the Commission, and the inhabitants of the surrounding counties, had already begun to send in supplies, which were given to the Christian Commission. These were of every possible variety, and were brought in all sorts of wagons. Before night-fall of Monday probably not less than fifteen loads of provisions had been received and distributed. Both delegates and stores continued to arrive, and long before the cars were running, two extensive rooms were being constantly filled with and emptied of provisions for the needy.

On Tuesday (July 7) two large loads of the choicest hospital supplies from Philadelphia, comprising something like eighty boxes, and accompanied by nearly thirty delegates, came around the mountain from Carlisle by way of Dillsburg, in order to avoid Stuart's cavalry, which at the time was said to be lurking in the woods between Carlisle and Gettysburg. About this time other loads of stores arrived from Columbia, Harrisburg, York, and the "Patriot Daughters," of Lancaster.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday the town of Gettysburg presented a sad and woeful appearance. Guns were scattered in the streets or piled upon the sidewalks. Pavements were stained with blood. Every church and public building, and in fact every private house, was filled with wounded men. Women had gone out into the streets while the battle was in progress, and washing the wounds of our soldiers, had carried them to their own homes, where they kindly ministered to them until they died, or were able to be removed to a more suitable place. The Seminary and College buildings were occupied by

rebel wounded, as were the barns and sheds, west and south of the town, towards Chambersburg and Emmetsburg. More than twenty thousand men in all were in and around Gettysburg at the beginning of the week following the battle. Of these many were but slightly wounded, and with a little assistance and encouragement were able to walk. For several days, therefore, after the battle a stream of Federal soldiers, weary, weak from loss of blood, hungry and disheartened, could be seen coming in from the various field hospitals which had been suddenly extemporized three or four miles from town, hoping to find cars ready to take them to Baltimore or Philadelphia. To feed these men, to wash their wounds, to give them clean clothing, to encourage them to continue their journey till they should reach the place, a mile beyond the town, where the trains were at first obliged to stop, was a part of our work. An eating saloon was, therefore, imperatively called for, and immediately established, by the Christian Commission, at which, in the words of Dr. Bel- lows, "some thousands of tired and hungry soldiers were fed." The superintendence of this saloon was undertaken by Mr. Louis Muller, of Baltimore, a work in which he was assisted by Mr. Woodward, of the same city, both delegates, who cooked the food eaten, and personally attended to its distribution. In this work Mr. Woodward furnished an example of the most untiring industry and devotion, laboring till near midnight, rising with the first dawn of day, and deserves to be held in lasting remembrance for his faith and zeal and labors of love. This saloon was kept in full operation by us till the Sanitary Commission proposed to take that work off our hands. As we had more than we could do to take care of the severely wounded, this offer was gladly accepted. Mr. A. H. Brown and other delegates of the Christian Commission, helped the agents of the Sanitary Commission to pitch their tents near the railroad depot, and we thankfully gave over the feeding of hungry soldiers, at this point, into their hands.

As soon as possible after the close of the battle, stations of the Christian Commission were established in the corps hospitals, a competent delegate appointed to take charge of each, who was called the captain of it, and other delegates assigned to work under his direction, subject, however, to the orders of the

surgeon in charge, to whom all were to report themselves in the first instance for instruction in the work which they should perform. In every corps hospital, with a single exception, that of the Sixth Corps, there was a tent occupied by the stores and delegates of the Commission. The work in each of these corps hospitals, though in many points similar, was yet so different as to need to be described by itself, or to be studied in connection with the reports of the delegates who worked in a particular corps. We can here give only a general survey of the whole field, leaving incidents entirely out of sight, and naming only those delegates who had charge of the work in a particular field, though others, whose record is on high, equally deserve notice.

In some respects the work in the Second Corps hospital was the most interesting and important. There were at least twenty-five hundred wounded men in this hospital, which was located at first (though afterwards removed to a better situation) in a grove about a mile south of the Baltimore pike, and between two and three miles from town. The men here were in a terrible condition. They lay upon the damp ground, many of them with nothing under them. In this hospital there were an unusually large number of amputations, the amputated stumps lying directly upon the ground, except when now and then elevated a little upon a handful of straw or a bunch of old rags. Many of the men, perhaps most of them, were in want of clothing. Suitable food was not to be had. The surgeons were overworked. There was an insufficient number of attendants, every able-bodied man that could possibly be spared having accompanied the army in its pursuit of Lee.

Into this field, as already intimated, the Christian Commission entered. A tent was pitched, at first in the Third Division of the Second Corps, under the direction of Rev. J. E. Adams, of New Sharon, Maine, and J. B. Stillson, Esq., of Rochester, N. Y. Here a dozen delegates had their headquarters, while they sought to alleviate pain, with all the energy which the sight of suffering can arouse. Another tent, and still another, was pitched in the First and Second Divisions of the same corps, where the Rev. R. C. Matlack, with a company of delegates from Philadelphia, and Mrs. Moore and her daughter, sent by

the Commission from Baltimore, labored incessantly for several weeks. Other ladies from different parts of Pennsylvania did a good work in this corps, cooking and supplying choice dishes of nourishing food for the languishing men.

In addition to the twenty-five hundred previously mentioned, there were nearly or quite a thousand rebels, most of them severely wounded, lying on the outskirts of this hospital, shrieking and crying for assistance continually. The appearance of those connected with the hospital of the Third Division of this corps beggars description. Destitute of clothing, many of them nearly naked and covered with filth, without tents, lying in the mud—for the sudden rise of the little stream by which they had been placed rendered it impossible to avoid this—cursing, praying, begging their attendants or visitors to put an end to their sufferings by taking their lives, here one and yonder another laid out by himself to die, these wretched men made the strongest appeal to Christian sympathy and benevolence. Nor was their appeal unheeded. Physicians who had come out under the direction of the Commission were immediately sent to their relief, to dress their wounds and to prescribe for their necessities, while stores were freely distributed among them by Messrs. Adams and Stillson and their associates. Nor did this work cease till every wounded man was made comfortable, every wound dressed, every necessary amputation performed, tents issued for their accommodation, underclothing distributed, and those who were able to endure it sent to Baltimore or Philadelphia, while the rest were conveyed to the general hospital established on the other side of the town. Hardly less thorough than this was the work performed in the First and Second Divisions of the corps. Mr. Matlack and those associated with him were untiring in their efforts to make our soldiers comfortable, dressing wounds themselves, giving without stint while their stores held out, then telegraphing to Philadelphia for more, and only remitting their exertions when the necessity for them had passed away.

When all who could be had been removed to the general hospital, there were nearly four hundred left on the ground, severe cases of amputation, compound fracture, &c., of whom probably not more than one-third lived. Among these men,

many of whom suffered excruciatingly, some of our delegates continued to labor till the last, through the surgeons and in connection with other commissions supplying their bodily wants, but seeking chiefly to direct them to the Great Physician for the healing of the soul. Many gave evidence of a renewed state. Especially was this true among the rebels. And as the delegates went through their tents you would hear the inmates invoke blessings upon their heads, and beg them to stop and pray and sing. A more glorious work was never engaged in. The blessings of philanthropy were not simply seen, but felt.

The following letter from Dr. McAbee shows the surgeons' appreciation of the delegates and their work:

HOSPITAL, THIRD DIVISION, SECOND CORPS,  
NEAR GETTYSBURG, PA., July 15, 1863.

MESSRS. STILLSON, ADAMS, FIELDS,

AND OTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

GENTLEMEN: Please allow me to say that the society which you represent more than earned a right to the title it has assumed, in the work it did at Gettysburg for the wounded of this Division. The supplies of food and clothing furnished were wisely selected, and generously and judiciously distributed, and the agents sent, by the manliness of their bearing, the unpretending devotion with which they gave themselves to the work, and the Christian-like deportment which characterized their conduct throughout, stamped them as being eminently fitted for the work of faith and labor of love to which they had been assigned.

Such laborers will always be welcome where large-hearted, true men are needed.

H. M. McABEE,  
Surgeon in charge.

The work of the Commission in the First Corps was equally thorough and scarcely less interesting. The hospitals belonging to this corps were widely separated, some of them being in the town, where many had been wounded on the first day of the battle, occupying the Presbyterian church, the Catholic church and the Court-house, while others, filled with those who had

been wounded later in the conflict, were four miles away, towards Littlestown, on the Baltimore pike, on either side of the road, in houses and barns and open fields. A great number of delegates were employed in supplying the wants of these hospitals.

The work of the Commission in the hospitals out of town, especially those belonging to the Second Division of the First Corps, were at first under the direction of Mr. H. M. Stevens, of Maine, who labored with great acceptance and success. Religious meetings were also established, which were attended with much interest. The labors of the Rev. A. G. McAuley, of Philadelphia, and his party, were very acceptable to the men in these hospitals. He visited them frequently, conversed with them on religious subjects, prayed with them, while he endeavored to make their bodily condition more comfortable. Some idea of his work may be formed from the fact, that on one day he gave a glass of lemonade to each one of more than a thousand men, at the same time leaving them an abundance of suitable food. It may not be inappropriate in this connection to speak of the gratitude which a company of soldiers occupying a garret manifested on another occasion, when a piece of fresh bread and butter was presented to each of them, of the eager attention they gave when addressed in regard to their souls' salvation, and of the grateful feelings of hundreds of others, lying in barns, in the driveways, in the stables, in the bays, on the lofts, to whom on that same day large slices of soft bread, spread with sweet butter and the choicest preserve, were given: their hearty words of acknowledgment and their readiness to listen to the truths of the Gospel can never be forgotten. Those belonging to the First Division of this corps, who lay in White Church, were fortunate in having the attention of Mrs. Spencer, from New York, who drew freely from both the Sanitary and the Christian Commission, in order that her patients might want for nothing.

In town, a great variety of laborers were employed. The Rev. Mr. McCullough, of Philadelphia, with the aid of one or two other delegates, at the surgeon's request, made bunks for all of the patients in the Catholic church, raising them from the floor, cleaned out the wet, musty straw, obtained fresh sweet bedding,



swept the entire house, fixed the windows so that they could be lowered from the top, and together with the Sisters of Charity, who never wearied in deeds of kindness, washed and fed the men. The same work was done in the church opposite, and in the Court-house, by Mrs. Brainard and Mrs. Barnard, of Michigan, who entered upon the same at the suggestion of the Christian Commission, and in the Presbyterian church, except that bunks were not here made. In all the hospitals in town, and they were very many, delegates were at work, in some doing more, in others less. The Rev. I. O. Sloan made it his whole business to go from place to place, ministering to cases of necessity, and speaking words of comfort and consolation to all with whom he met. Always, when possible, words of Christian exhortation were spoken, the dying directed to Jesus, and prayer-meetings and Sabbath exercises held. But at first, the relief of bodily suffering necessarily occupied a great part of our attention, sometimes seemingly, though not really, to the neglect of spiritual interests. In all branches of the work, however, the delegates of the Commission served it so faithfully as to call forth from scores the expressed hope, that it would not leave the ground while a single soldier remained to be cared for. Hundreds of soldiers, too, belonging to different corps, lying in private houses throughout the town, received their daily food, obtained and prepared for them by citizens of the place, directly from the rooms of the Commission.

The Third Corps hospital lay in a field southeast of that of the Second Corps, a mile or more from the Baltimore pike, and nearly four miles from town. The men in this corps, though very great sufferers, did not appear to have been so severely wounded as many in other corps, so that our work among them, though interesting and profitable, was not so indispensable as it seemed to be elsewhere. Perhaps we did not accomplish quite as much here as we should, had not the Rev. W. S. Alexander, of Pomfret, Connecticut, to whom the charge of the work was assigned, and whom we supposed to be on the ground, received several dangerous wounds, while quietly attending to his duties, from an intoxicated major, who, it should be added, to the credit of Major-General Birney and the War Department, was promptly arrested and finally dismissed the service, while Mr. Alexander received

every possible attention from the commanding officers. The occurrence of this event disarranged our operations at first, rendering them less systematic and orderly than elsewhere. As soon, however, as the true state of affairs was known, a tent was obtained and the services of several very efficient delegates secured, who labored with great success and with a zeal and devotion which only the love of Christ can excite.

Connected with the hospital of the Third Corps was a barn, full of wounded rebels, who were in a most destitute condition. Some of them were half buried in the dark filthy water concealed under the hay, so often strewn on the bottom of barn cellars. Others were on the ground-floor of stables, others in sheds, and some lay in the shadow of the fences which lined the narrow lane on which the barn stood. Hungry, weary, discouraged, necessarily neglected by our own over-occupied surgeons, these rebels were all thrown upon the hands of the Christian Commission. If other agencies supplied their wants to any great extent, we did not know it. Delegates who were physicians were sent them, who, sleeping among them as they could, and eating what was easiest obtained, bound up wounds, amputated limbs, and gave them nourishing soups and stimulating drinks, while they never forgot the religious wants of their patients. They were aided by a young lady from Chelsea, Massachusetts, who cooked and distributed food. Interesting conversions here took place, and we cannot doubt that it will appear at the last day that many laid the foundation of their new life in this old barn, through the labors and in answer to the prayers of the Christian men who so willingly ministered unto them. This work also continued till the prisoners were removed either to the general hospital or sent to Baltimore or Philadelphia, from whence they were finally carried to Chester, where they received the best of care and attention.

The Fifth Corps' hospital was in sight of that of the Third Corps, and not many rods distant. The men here, though needy, were kindly cared for. Rev. R. J. Parvin, of Philadelphia, a man of great executive ability, who had been a delegate to several battle-fields, superintended the work in this corps. The worst cases were collected together by themselves in a barn, a short distance from the main hospital, where

Mr. Parvin gave them his personal attention, laboring among them all the day, praying with them at all hours, allowing himself to be called up during the night, comforting the dying, writing the messages of the living, attending to the burial of the dead, and distributing articles of food and clothing directly under the eye of the surgeon in charge. In each of the divisions of this corps delegates were employed, whose business it was to inform themselves of the wants of all in their department, and either supply their wants themselves or report deficiencies to Mr. Parvin, who saw that the needed articles were promptly provided. When Mr. Parvin left his work, he was succeeded by Rev. George Bringham, of Philadelphia, who trod in the footsteps of his predecessor, and whose genial countenance and loving words were everywhere welcome. So perfectly systematized was the work in this corps, that it seemed far less extensive than it really was, though just in proportion as system was introduced was the amount of available labor increased.

The remainder of the Sixth Corps, numbering only a few hundreds, and lying near to those of the Fifth Corps, were added to Mr. Parvin's charge, though the bodily wants of these sufferers were chiefly supplied by other agencies than our own, either by Government, by some of the various relief societies, or by the Sanitary Commission. The surgeon in charge, when asked what should be sent him, replied that he needed nothing, though he willingly gave our delegates the privilege of conversing with his men on religious subjects, and seemed glad that provision was made to give them a Christian burial.

Owing to certain unforeseen and unfavorable circumstances, the operations of the Commission were less successful in the hospital of the Twelfth Corps than elsewhere. Yet a large amount of provisions was distributed here from first to last, and many a wounded soldier was comforted and directed to Christ; but, as two very excellent chaplains had remained at this hospital, the necessity for the religious instruction given by delegates of the Commission was less urgent than at most other places.

Our work in the hospital of the Eleventh Corps, at first under the very efficient charge of Mr. James Grant, of Philadelphia, and subsequently under the care of the Rev. J. B. Poerner, of

Baltimore, furnished a field favorable to cultivation. It was nearest the town of all the field hospitals, and was therefore easy of access. The number of wounded in it was large,—nearly or quite two thousand. At first there was much destitution. Part of Monday night, after the battle, was spent by Mrs. Harris, of Philadelphia, and one of the delegates of the Commission, in giving to some hundreds of wounded soldiers the first soft bread they had tasted since the fight.

Many of the men were Germans, and could be reached only by one who understood their language. For this post, therefore, Mr. Poerner was well fitted. In connection with other delegates, he conducted religious services in both the English and the German language, and conversed privately with great numbers in regard to the interests of the soul. He did very much also to lessen the suffering experienced here. He carried out pieces of broken boxes from town, and barrel staves, and, with little assistance from any quarter, succeeded in raising all the men from the bare ground on which they had hitherto lain.

Though it was our first duty to provide for our own soldiers, the rebels were not neglected. Of this, the treatment of those connected with the hospitals of the Second and Third Corps furnishes abundant proof. But besides what was here done, effort was made to improve the condition and to increase the comfort of the prisoners on the Cashtown road, and on the various other roads west and south of the town. The Rev. A. B. Cross, of Baltimore, explored this field with great thoroughness, and reported its necessities, which, in every case, were immediately relieved.

The buildings of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and College were filled with rebel wounded, who, though needy as wounded men always are, were at no time in what could justly be called a destitute condition. Much was done for the inmates of these hospitals, parties from Baltimore taking up their abode in the College building, that they might the better minister to the wants of the sufferers. There were some also proclaiming themselves delegates of the Christian Commission, who disregarded military rule to so great a degree that the provost-marshal was obliged to require of all who ministered to these prisoners an oath of allegiance, and no one who refused this oath

was recognized by us as a delegate of the Commission; for, as was once done with a wagon marked U. S. C. C., and sometimes employed in conveying contraband articles to the College, the name of the Commission was frequently counterfeited by those who had no sympathy with our Government. All packages and boxes directed to private individuals at Gettysburg were opened by order of the military authorities, and, if found to contain anything contraband, were confiscated or given to the Christian Commission to distribute.

On the Cashtown road, at different distances from town, there were several camps of rebel prisoners, who were for the most part extremely needy. They had been left by General Lee with few surgeons, and with scanty supplies of food, clothing, or medicine. As stragglers were picked up day after day, or found wounded lying in remote outbuildings, the necessities of these camps became greater and greater. When we remember that from eight to ten thousand of these prisoners fell into our hands, it will readily be seen that it was no slight task to take care of them. But as good care as possible was given them, Government doing all in its power for them, as did the Sanitary Commission, though after all was done that could be much suffering still existed. We ourselves observed no distinction in the treatment we gave these prisoners and our own men. To every rebel camp accessible we sent supplies, and where there were rebel surgeons we supplied their requisitions as fully as we were able. At some of these camps we had regular stations, ministers and physicians occupying them, and doing for the prisoners just what they needed, and just what we in their situation should have desired. The articles distributed were always appropriated to the purposes for which they were given, never wasted, or bestowed to an unnecessary degree upon officers rather than privates; and they were willingly received, the prisoners expressing great gratitude for them, as well as surprise at such kind treatment at the hands of enemies. Many a prisoner has said to us: "We never expected such treatment from you." "We are not afraid of your bullets and your cannon-balls, but we can't stand this." "You will overcome us with kindness." May it not be that the Christian Commission is acting an important part in showing the South the groundlessness of its hatred to the North?

These prisoners were especially accessible on religious subjects, desiring apparently more than our own men to learn the way of life. It was natural, therefore, that the delegates who began to work among them should not only become exceedingly interested in them, but very unwilling to leave them. When the rebels were removed, our delegates often accompanied the trains, and ministered to their wants the same as to our own men. In short, wherever wounded rebels were found, and they were in every field hospital, they received as good treatment as our means and strength permitted us to give them. Their surgeons and chaplains came freely into our rooms in town, and selecting the articles they desired, had them carried out to their men either by our own teams or by those of Government.

It would be wrong for the Christian Commission to claim for itself the credit of supplying the wants of all the wounded men. Some were never supplied; others received aid from the Sanitary Commission, from various State agencies of relief, and from Adams' Express; others from private individuals, ladies and gentlemen, who at their own charges ministered to the needy. In every corps hospital women were engaged in cooking food for the sick, and in the work of its distribution. But perhaps we may form some estimate of the work which the Christian Commission accomplished from the amount of supplies it distributed. In a little more than a month some twenty-five hundred cases of necessary articles, worth about seventy-five thousand dollars, were distributed. On some days a thousand loaves of bread were given out, loaves of more than four times the ordinary size, loaves which were sent us from all parts of Southern and Central Pennsylvania. Every day also we sent to our corps stations from three to six army wagon loads of provisions, clothing, wines, preserves, medicines, &c., to say nothing of the articles taken out in ambulances and smaller wagons to scattered companies of men lying here and there all over the field. By ten o'clock A. M. of each day, we aimed to have these loads of necessities on their way, that the time of those employed at our rooms might be given to the opening of new boxes, and the distribution of such articles as were personally called for.

It is perhaps unnecessary to do more than to allude to the character and amount of the work performed at the headquarters

of the Commission in town. Cars were to be unloaded, boxes to be unpacked and repacked, transportation to be obtained, telegraphing to be done, invoices to be verified, the books of the Commission to be kept, letters of acknowledgment to be written, those of inquiry from friends of the wounded to be answered—a work which engaged the services of one man all the time—delegates to be assigned on their arrival to the different corps hospitals or sent to our stations among the rebels, Sabbath and weekday services to be arranged, strangers seeking tidings of relatives or friends to be aided,—in short, all the work of a great establishment was here planned and done. The two extensive stores of which we have before spoken, were occupied till the General Hospital was established, when we pitched our tents there, and removing the greater part of the Commission's property thither, made arrangements for religious services, and with the consent and approval of the surgeon in charge, continued to labor in our appropriate sphere, till the necessity for such labor no longer existed.

July 28th, about the time of our removal to the General Hospital, a district committee was chosen, with R. G. McCreary, Esq., as its chairman, to look after the interests of the Commission in Gettysburg and that vicinity, and to decide cases of difficulty which might occur in the further prosecution of our work there. Another committee was chosen at York; and subsequent events have more than shown the wisdom of the appointment. Increased interest has been taken in the Commission, and its means of usefulness have been greatly extended.

When the wounded began to be removed in large numbers, Dr. Cuyler, Medical Inspector, desired us to open a refreshment saloon at Hanover Junction; and here many thousands of soldiers were fed: the trains were halted for this very purpose; every man received suitable food and drink; lemonade was given to the stronger ones; to those weaker and needing a stimulant, a little brandy or wine. Thus no doubt many were enabled to bear the fatigue of the journey, who but for this would have sunk on the way.

At all stages of our work religious reading was distributed, though the amount circulated was far less than would have been required among an equal number of well men.

In every department of our work we were aided by the citizens of Gettysburg, who certainly showed as much zeal in the removal of suffering as any one of the more than four hundred delegates who were on the field from first to last. Professor Stoever, especially, and his wife, ready in every good work; Miss Van Patten, who cheerfully wrote for us many hours a day; R. G. McCreary, Esq., who, leaving his business, stood behind the counter for more than four weeks, receiving and disbursing goods from early morn till far into the night, aiding the Commission in every possible way by his wise counsels; the Professors in College and Seminary; Mr. Shick, who generously gave us the use of his store; the editors of the weekly papers, who kindly noticed our proceedings; Messrs. Harper, Danner, Arnold, Fahnestock, and Bevan, and those other citizens who so generously took such of the delegates as were employed in town into their own families,—should all be gratefully remembered in the estimate we make of the value of the services of the Commission. Nor should we forget to record our gratitude for the hearty co-operation of the Quartermaster and Provost-marshal, who gave us every facility for the prosecution of our labors. It was a united work which was accomplished; one in which many hearts and many hands were employed; one in which the citizens of Gettysburg had their full share.

When at last the burden and the heat of the day were borne; when the soldiers were nearly all removed or comfortably cared for in the General Hospital, the Surgeon-General expressed his estimation of the services of the Commission at Gettysburg in a letter of public thanks, addressed to the President of the Commission.

Others, also, the Medical Inspector, the Professors in the College and Seminary, distinguished visitors from all parts of the country, bore voluntary witness to the success and indispensableness of our work. We were encouraged, too, by the constant and generous contributions made on the spot by those who had observed for themselves the beneficial results of our labors.

Though none of us did as much as we desired, and though we did not manage all things with the truest wisdom, which only experience can teach, no one who labored at Gettysburg as a delegate of the Christian Commission can help being thankful



for the part he was permitted to bear in the work there accomplished, or cease to pray for the continued and increased prosperity of the organization which he there represented.

Surgeons estimated that more than one thousand lives were saved by the timely relief offered by the delegates and stores of the Christian Commission. Clergymen of age and experience, competent to judge, report that more than one thousand souls were there hopefully converted. We believe both of these estimates are short of the truth. Is not such a work worthy the attention of the philanthropist and the Christian?

Before giving an account of the work in the General Hospital, it may not be out of place here to present two or three letters from distinguished Professors in the Seminary and College, whose grounds and edifices and names are connected with the battle, and with the care of the wounded after it.

GETTYSBURG, August 8, 1863

MR. F. E. SHEARER,

General Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I am happy to be able to say that I have beheld with unaffected admiration the judicious and energetic mode in which you, and the gentlemen associated with you, have conducted the operations of the United States Christian Commission. The system and spirit which characterize your movements constitute a model for similar associations, and I have been soothed and comforted in the midst of the sad scenes of suffering which I daily witness in the hospitals, by the benign influence which your association is exercising on our brave wounded and sick soldiers. God bless you, and all who sustain you in your noble work.

CHARLES F. SCHAEFFER,

Theological Seminary.

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG,  
August 8, 1863.

F. E. SHEARER,

General Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I regard the United States Christian Commission as one of the most useful and blessed agencies which the spirit

of our Master has called into exercise in these last days. I have witnessed its zeal and enterprise in relieving the wounded and the dying; tireless in its labors, and unintimidated by danger. How many lives it saved, and how many precious souls it directed to the Lamb of God during and after the battle of Gettysburg, eternity only can reveal. How our poor wounded soldiers would have fared without its timely assistance, and that of its sister, the Sanitary Commission, we may well conjecture, when we consider that the immediate region occupied by the troops had been stripped of provisions, and the army supplies had not yet reached their destination. In this emergency your Commission visited the suffering, and with the one hand fed the hungry and bound up their wounds, with the other applied to their sorrowing souls the precious consolations of the Gospel.

With my sincere prayers for the blessing of the Highest on your truly Christian work, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely your friend,

H. L. BAUGHER.

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG,  
August 10, 1863.

MY DEAR MR. STUART:

I had hoped to hear from you before this, but your time, I know, is very much occupied, and therefore, I readily excuse you. Next week I hope to be in Philadelphia, when I will call to see you and talk with you in detail. I shall ever remember with interest your visit to Gettysburg and our interviews with the wounded and dying. Many of them have since gone to a better country; others are doing very well, with every prospect of a speedy recovery. They kindly inquire after you and speak gratefully of your efforts among them. The hospital arrangements are very much improved. Those in the country have all been consolidated, and the patients are much more comfortable.

Rev. Dr. Junkin preached at the General Hospital yesterday, and among his hearers were some of his former pupils in Virginia among the rebel wounded. His interview with them was of a most touching character. With tears in his eyes, and his arms

around their neck, he told them in how wicked a rebellion they were engaged. One of them was a chaplain in the rebel service.

I have been very much interested in the labors of the Christian Commission. It is a noble institution, and has been doing in Gettysburg, among the wounded and dying, a most efficient work. Comfort, relief and religious instruction are daily furnished to thousands through its instrumentality, much suffering and distress alleviated, and large numbers hopefully converted to God. The members of the Commission have been laboring most faithfully, and I am glad to add my testimony to their self-denying, indefatigable and generous efforts in ministering to the wants, physical and spiritual, of the suffering. Their work, like that of the good Samaritan, is a blessed work.

Hoping to see you very soon, and with assurances of the highest regard,

I remain faithfully,

Your friend and brother,

M. L. STOEVEK.

N. B. My little Willie desires to be affectionately remembered to you.

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About one month after the battle, the last of the corps hospitals out over the fields was broken up, the last of the wounded gathered into one general field hospital, a short distance from the town, near the line of the Hanover Road. Here, on a beautiful sloping meadow, a compact village of hospital tents, laid out in rectangular streets and blocks, with the surgeons' headquarters in a lovely grove on the south, and Commission tents at the south-east angle, were gathered the remaining maimed and mangled heroes of the memorable and terrible three days' struggle, to have all the benefits that medical skill and Christian kindness and counsel could confer. For days they were coming in ambulances from all the corps hospitals in different and distant parts of the field, trundled over the roads, and those too weak to bear the jolting of the ambulances borne on stretchers by their com-

rades in arms, easily and silently, one after another, with their kind friends, the delegates, in some instances, in attendance, until the last, about two thousand in all, were placed in the new village of the mangled and maimed, there to remain until by the good hand of God, the skill of the surgeons, and the oil and the wine of the Florence Nightingales, who devoted themselves night and day to the work, they should be sufficiently recovered to return to their commands or their homes, or be transferred to the permanent hospitals elsewhere established; or, if beyond the curative power of kindness and medicine, then to have their last hours and dying thoughts soothed and cheered by Christian counsels, and their bodies borne with Christian rites to the "National Cemetery," the place of honor, amongst the many heroes who with them had laid down their lives gloriously for Liberty and Union.

When the several corps field hospitals were finally merged in the general field hospital, the special field organization of the Christian Commission was broken up, and on the 7th of August the work, now confined mainly to the one place, together with the hospital stores and store-room, turned over to the Gettysburg Army Committee of the United States Christian Commission, of which R. G. McCreary, Esq., is chairman.

A store tent, a sleeping tent, and an eating tent, with some twelve delegates, formed the Christian Commission establishment at the general field hospital. Here came the kind lady nurses for delicacies, stimulants, and clothing, additional to the Government supplies, indispensable to the comfort and recovery of the men. From hence went forth from day to day the delegates, under direction of the surgeons, bearing in basket or haversack whatever for body or soul those to whom they ministered might require. The work, like the streets of the hospital, was laid off in districts, and each district assigned to one or more of the delegates. From time to time, in addition to the more private personal instructions and services in the hospital tents, public preaching services were held, to which all were invited; and from day to day, as the soul of one after another passed away from the body, each had the respect paid to them of Christian burial. The friends of the wounded coming from a distance to do what they might for them, to have a last look

and last word, if no more, or to see and weep over and to mark their graves, found shelter, rest, refreshment, and sympathy, which nowhere else could be found, and without which they would have sadly suffered, at the ample tents and tables and open hearts of the Christian Commission establishment.

Two streams were flowing out from day to day, one by the gate of death to the cemetery, the other by the cars to distant homes and hospitals. Reduced at last to a few hundreds, with a feeling of loneliness creeping over them and depressing their spirits, the happy thought of a festival to cheer them up and promote more rapid and certain recovery, as well as to pay them well-merited honors and show them universal sympathy, was suggested and realized. Generous contributions, placed for this special purpose in the hands of the Christian Commission, were gladly appropriated, to the amount of some hundreds of dollars, and helped in the achievement of all the most sanguine had hoped for from this bounteous feast, spread for the heroes who, in their long prostration, had suffered the agonies of a hundred deaths.

From that hour, those past recovery sunk quickly and died, and those convalescing rose rapidly and were removed. In a few days the tents of this village were struck, the work of the Commission was done, the record was closed, and the meadow, like the great field around it, left to the hallowing influences of time, never to be forgotten, but ever to be brightening in the grateful affections of a free people, for whom the great sacrifice had been made.

We subjoin a few out of the many testimonials spontaneously given.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., July 20, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I beg that you will accept my most heartfelt thanks for the devotion to the service of the sick and wounded soldiers of Gettysburg manifested by the Christian Commission and its agents.

Owing to the military necessities of the occasion, the suffering would have been much greater than it was but for the aid afforded the medical officers by the benevolent individuals who came to their assistance.

I trust you will convey my thanks to those of your body who acted with the medical department at Gettysburg, and assure them how highly I value their labors.

Begging you to accept my warmest acknowledgments for your own service in the cause of humanity, believe me

Yours, sincerely,

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,

Surgeon-General.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,

President Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., July 30, 1863.

SIR: The following extract from the report of Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Cuyler, Medical Inspector United States Army, is furnished for your information:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1863.

"I cannot close this brief report, General, without acknowledging the immense aid afforded by the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The promptness, energy, and great kindness, uniformly exhibited by these benevolent associations, doubtless helped to save the lives of many, and gladdened the hearts of thousands, who, with their friends scattered throughout our land, will hold their good and noble deeds in grateful remembrance."

I need not assure you how cordially I concur in his remarks, and can only reiterate the thanks already tendered you.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. HAMMOND,

Surgeon-General.

G. H. STUART, ESQ.,

President United States Christian Commission,  
13 Bank Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

GETTYSBURG, PA., July 24.

MY DEAR SIR: The aid afforded us by the Christian Commission has been immense. Your profuse generosity and indefatigable and kind attentions doubtless saved many lives and glad-

dened the hearts of thousands. The country will appreciate and God will bless your efforts.

Yours, very truly,

JNO. M. CUYLER.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS HOSPITAL,  
July 24, 1863.

F. E. SHEARER,

Agent United States Christian Commission.

SIR: It affords us pleasure to bear testimony to the noble work of the United States Christian Commission in affording timely and substantial relief to the physical and religious wants of the wounded and dying soldiers of this corps since the battle of Gettysburg. A vast aggregate of suffering has been relieved, and no doubt many lives saved.

JUSTIN DWINELLE,

Surgeon in charge.

NATHAN HAYWARD,

Surgeon Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers.

WM. J. BURN,

Surgeon Forty-second Massachusetts Volunteers.

F. F. BURMEISTER,

Surgeon Sixty-ninth Regiment Penna. Volunteers.

E. DAY,

Surgeon Thirty-ninth Regiment N. Y. Volunteers,  
in charge Third Division, Second Army Corps.

CHARLES T. KELSEY,

Surgeon in charge First Division, Second Army Corps.

A. STOKES JONES,

Assist. Surgeon Seventy-second Regiment Penna. Volunteers.

H. C. LEVENSALEERS,

Assist. Surgeon Nineteenth Regiment Maine Volunteers.

T. O. CORNISH,

Assist. Surgeon Fifteenth Massachusetts Volunteers.

A similar testimonial was sent, signed by all the surgeons in charge of the division hospitals of the First Army Corps, and others, viz.:

G. W. Ramsey, Surgeon in charge First Division Hospital.

Wm. B. Chambers, Surgeon in charge Second Division Hospital.

A. T. Woodward, Surgeon in charge Third Division Hospital, First Corps.

L. D. Ross, Surgeon Fourteenth Vermont Volunteers, at Third Division Hospital, First Corps.

J. H. Beech, Surgeon 24th Michigan, in charge of Express Office Hospital, Gettysburg.

Dr. Ward, Medical Director First Corps, expressed the highest appreciation, and gave every facility, detailed wagons, ambulances, &c., for the service, and said the Commission deserved the blessings of the whole army.

#### TESTIMONY OF TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SOLDIERS.

The following testimonial is peculiarly precious. It is the spontaneous expression of heroes whose lives were long trembling in the balance, and was signed by every Union soldier remaining at the time in the General Hospital, the last lingering cases of all who had fallen wounded on the field of Gettysburg, and who were unwilling to leave the hospital without sending to the Commission an acknowledgment of the benefits they had received from the hands of its delegates.

We, the undersigned, being soldiers in the hospital at Gettysburg, Pa., deeming it a privilege, as well as our duty, would hereby express our unbounded and heartfelt gratitude to the Christian Commission (and may the Giver of all good reward them) for their numberless acts of kindness, for their unsparing contributions, without which we must sometimes have severely suffered, and last, but not least of all, for meeting our dear friends and relatives, who have come from our homes to watch over us, with an outstretched hand, saying, "You are welcome to our hospitalities while you remain," which is no small item to a poor soldier's friends, far from home and among total strangers. We therefore hope you will accept our humble thanks.

J. M. Altipes,  
W. C. Beckes,  
J. A. Bush, Sergeant,  
D. Adams,

R. Pitts,  
L. J. Orwig,  
L. Lewis,  
C. D. Milton.

All of Ward A, First Division, Camp Letterman Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.



We, the undersigned, members of Tent No. 2, Ward A, Second Division after hearing it read, do all approve of it.

C. H. Anderson, Nurse,  
D. D. Spinnings,  
Wm. F. Hubbard,  
James Brunson,  
Henry Barwick,

A. J. Sheerer,  
Merrit Lewis,  
R. B. Marfield,  
L. Roberts,  
A. E. Sanford.

**TENT NO. 3, WARD A, SECOND DIVISION.**

Francis E. Hodgman,  
John A. Crawford,  
Wyman Ulmer,  
Daniel Corcoran,  
Charles Whiteland,

Michael Laughlin,  
Henry Wenke,  
Charles Ulrich,  
Harmon Riebe.

**TENT NO. 4, WARD A.**

John Kelly,  
John Swain,  
Levi Potter,  
Stephen Gray,  
S. W. Woodman,  
John Caussy,  
Columbus Hailnutor,  
William H. Hooper,  
William Simpson,  
Lorenzo D. Gates,  
John W. Price,  
Nath. Lloyd,  
P. J. Stackhouse,  
P. Clarey,  
B. Hatfield,  
Wm. Murray,  
A. Woolf,  
Carl Felsberg,  
Julius Wild,  
A. D. Crocker,  
E. H. Dudley,  
Calvin P. Lawrence,  
Andrew Vanvorst,  
Benjamin F. Hayner,  
John A. Thomas,  
Jacob King,  
Philip Hare,  
Charles Ries,

Joseph P. Gass,  
Fred. Miller,  
John D. Weaver,  
S. A. Kellogg,  
Napoleon Bovet,  
Joseph Slate,  
George D. Morgan,  
Frank A. Sears,  
T. J. Chipley,  
Jack Roberts,  
Potter P. Wilson,  
J. R. Golder,  
W. White,  
A. Guin,  
W. H. Boles,  
L. S. Samson,  
R. L. Harris,  
G. W. Barrier,  
John R. Howard,  
John Walters,  
Joseph Hufford,  
William Smith,  
Jeremiah Hoffman,  
Joa. S. Pleasants  
James Vansky,  
S. H. White,  
David Strickland,  
W. J. Shipp.

## FIFTH DIVISION.

H. A. Patrick,  
 Ely Lofften,  
 Wm. H. Horton,  
 John Severton,  
 Tobias Duvall,  
 F. O. Yates,  
 W. Jones,  
 G. G. Everitt,  
 A. J. Glasgow,  
 J. H. Jordon,  
 E. J. Lewis,  
 J. Driscoll,  
 S. Keeler,  
 D. Owen,  
 Henry Read,  
 Theo. W. Rease,  
 Lewis M. Baker,  
 William M. Holder,  
 Joseph G. Caswell,  
 S. Maberry,  
 W. J. Wardman,  
 C. J. Smith,  
 C. W. Gellett,  
 Jacob Myres,  
 Joseph Walsh,  
 Warren Miller,  
 James Bucannon,  
 John L. Haze,  
 Robert Craton,  
 Samuel Jongling,  
 John B. Adams,  
 J. C. Chandler,  
 E. Fraipont,  
 J. Shaw,  
 Lewis M. Larkin,  
 Wesley Kridler,  
 Thomas Lindsay,  
 Hugh Lynch,  
 James Landard,  
 Isaac Allen,  
 T. J. Wilder,  
 M. S. Powell,  
 W. H. Miller,  
 E. Roach,  
 S. W. Russell,

Rynard P. Kipp,  
 Stephen L. Wetherlow,  
 A. P. Haskill,  
 C. B. Creadit,  
 George R. Hall, Corporal,  
 Levi C. Kinner, Corporal,  
 G. W. Bailey,  
 Joseph Fuchs,  
 John Hochstein,  
 Thomas Ryan,  
 W. S. Bush,  
 W. J. Wiley,  
 J. T. Griffith,  
 S. H. Hughes,  
 J. D. Cellar,  
 Geo. E. Deretty,  
 A. B. Kimball,  
 J. J. Galeman,  
 Wm. H. Emmons,  
 A. J. Dowell,  
 Wm. Seigler,  
 Wm. Franksin,  
 J. Getter,  
 H. Elmer,  
 F. W. Krisher,  
 A. Emmons,  
 B. Bentley,  
 F. Weigant,  
 H. Knopf,  
 C. Hammer,  
 L. Wisner,  
 A. Say,  
 J. Eldard,  
 H. S. Montgomery,  
 D. Sarbach,  
 C. Sparbeck,  
 J. Newell,  
 Samuel J. Bullock, Sergeant,  
 Albert Garnsey,  
 Richard Blaisdell,  
 Barnard Matters,  
 John Knighton,  
 Louis Schampagne, Sergeant,  
 Charles Kniffins, Sergeant,  
 Joshua Estus,

FIFTH DIVISION—*Continued.*

P. F. Tunney,  
James Jauncey,  
John Terry,  
E. B. Douglass,  
J. F. Goodspeed,  
Joe P. Harriger,  
Oliver W. Helmer,  
E. O'Neal,  
A. A. Sallings,  
George Laply,  
S. J. O'Dell,  
John Lansdal,  
John S. Mardin,  
John Durkin,  
Sires Walter,  
Alva Willard,  
Chas. S. Knapp,  
James McVicar,  
Andrew J. Joice,  
Charles C. Bryant,  
Wm. L. Johnson,  
David Parker,  
Augustus Wenzell,  
Martin Galliger,  
Drawsson Stoddard,  
Minot M. Ettrige,  
Thomas H. Buck,  
Henry F. Weaver,  
R. R. Farnsworth,  
William H. Sturtevant,  
Simon Marugly,  
Richard Bishop,  
Charles N. Drake,  
John K. Cook,

William Marvin,  
William H. Howard,  
Efter Root,  
N. H. Reff,  
Augustine Hansdale,  
Andrew Shanger,  
W. R. Lanford,  
D. E. Bacon,  
Sidney Wolsen,  
William L. Rumage,  
Peter Brock,  
Geo. G. Farwell,  
Wm. Sikes,  
Fred. Gannett,  
John A. Wilkinson,  
D. F. Bridges,  
M. G. Austin,  
D. T. Meddor,  
J. T. Cloud,  
C. H. Muloney,  
William Jowers,  
W. N. Grippin,  
S. M. Bowen,  
J. N. Brown,  
R. F. Carter,  
B. F. Smith,  
R. O. Ostien,  
H. M. Cahill,  
J. A. Simmons,  
H. C. Vincent,  
B. M. Dunn,  
J. B. Vaughan,  
John Yann,  
William H. Short.

## WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

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On the bloody fields of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Perryville, &c., in the West, the United States Christian Commission, whether or not distinctly known, was not unrepresented. Delegates from the Western Associations, combined in the Commission, were upon them all. The great battle of Murfreesboro', or Stone River, was the signal for sending a large corps of delegates, with battle-field stores, directly from the central office, to join others from the Western branches, and proceed to the field for the relief of the wounded.

The conflict commenced on the last day of December, 1862, by a rebel assault upon the national army, and ended the 2d of January, 1863, by a final repulse of the rebels. The Union loss was 1533 killed, and 1375 wounded, 2908 in all; while the rebel loss was 10,000 killed, wounded, and missing.

Within three days after the first clash of arms, forty men, out of scores offering to go, were commissioned, equipped, supplied, and sent. Thirty-two of them were sent from Philadelphia, and eight from Chicago and Louisville. Those from Philadelphia were divided into four companies. A captain was placed over each company. Tons of stores were purchased, invoiced, packed, marked, and sent forward by express trains, with the delegates. And both delegates and stores were passed through to Nashville, in this way, without charge. For this, and many other acts of generosity, the Commission, the soldiers, and the country, are indebted to the patriotic and generous men who manage the various railways from Philadelphia to Louisville, and to General Boyle, in command at Louisville, and in control of the road from there to Nashville.

Arriving at Nashville they met many of the wounded coming from the front by wagons and ambulances, and found abundance of Good Samaritan work for every one of them to do, and for many more, if more there had been.

Some of them, however, pushed on to the front, in ambulances and wagons, as best they could, determined to find the place of greatest destitution, and to relieve, as far as possible, those whose wounds were most terrible, and who could not be removed to the rear.

The records of their work bear the impress of ready hands, moved by warm and sympathizing hearts—such as we should naturally expect in the case of men who would go a thousand miles in midwinter, travelling and working day and night, without pay, for the relief of suffering soldiers. Many of them had toiled before, in the same beneficent work, on the Peninsula, where they shared with the soldiers the perils of malarious atmosphere and sweltering midsummer heat, and endured with them the fatigues and deprivations of hard marches and hard fare. Some of them had succored the wounded, and comforted the dying also on the great field of Antietam, and at Falmouth, after the sore repulse of the first battle of Fredericksburg. And now, with the advantage of all these lessons of battle-field experience, they were willing to do and endure at Murfreesboro'. Many a noble soldier, comforted and cheered, perhaps saved from death, by their kind ministrations, will thank God and the Commission that they were sent. Not a few who were pointed to the Saviour, will enjoy the ceaseless songs and boundless bliss of a glorious immortality, through their timely counsels. And many a home was filled with the joy of relief from terrible suspense, or had the sorrows of bereavement sweetly tempered, by the kind communication of intelligence, through them, from the absent ones.

This Christian Commission campaign, of the Murfreesboro' battle-field work, marks the beginning and the end, in the Army of the Cumberland, of the work upon the plan then pursued. "Live and learn" is the maxim of success for organizations as well as for individuals. Up to that time, and through that campaign, the system of organization was that above described, of sending delegates in companies, each with its captain and stores, without any controlling head or permanent agency in the field. After that time the new plan was adopted of a permanent "field organization," as set forth at page 29 *et al.* The term of

regular delegate service was also lengthened to the minimum of six weeks within army lines.

In April, early in the month, the field agent, who remains now, at the close of the year, still at his post, was selected from the corps of tried delegates at work in the Army of the Potomac, where the system was already in successful operation, and sent on with a small, but sufficient force, to begin the work, under the new plan of permanent organization, in the Army of the Cumberland. One field agent, and three delegates, with seven boxes, all told, of stores and publications, were the organic germ of the great work which has since grown up and borne so much and such heavenly fruit in that large field.

The ready, rich, and quick soil they found there, together with the precious sunshine and showers of God's favor, as well as the faith and energy of the sowers and the reapers, must be taken into account, if we would know the philosophy of this marvellous growth and fruitfulness. The first scene to which the field agent was introduced, by the good hand of God, was full of significance. A council of chaplains convened, in a deserted church, to devise ways and means to procure Bibles, Testaments, and religious reading matter for the famishing men of their regiments. Here he was, sent on under the guiding star of heaven, which came and stood over the deserted church, where the new work was to be welcomed which should rise and give light in the region and shadow of death, that multitudes, sitting in darkness, might see a great light—a work, at whose feet the gold and frankincense and myrrh of many wise men should be gladly laid down, and in whose radiance many a soldier and centurion, and some generals, should rejoice with a joy never to be taken from them.

The coming of the agent, with his three helpers, and seven boxes, was the beginning of the glad solution of the sad problem that weighed down the hearts of the chaplains; and they all rejoiced together that day in the church, not without some glistening evidences of their joy upon their bronzed cheeks.

Other scenes greeted the delegation of very different kinds, but equally prophetic of the immense and blessed work God was leading them onward to do.

As it has happened in many other cases, Murfreesboro' owes

its importance, in the eyes of the world, more to the desolations of war than to the prosperities of peace. It never was much but a poor county town or village until the presence of armed hosts and the terrible shock of battle gave its name to the wires of the world, and enrolled it upon the scroll of fame for all time.

At the time the Christian Commission inaugurated there, in the Army of the Cumberland, its permanent "field organization," Murfreesboro' was a ragged little village of wooden houses, surrounded by an immense city or cluster of cities of tents. The population of this frail fleeting city had learned that life with them was as frail and fleeting as their city itself; that at any moment the order might come to strike tent and pass on over the line of earthly existence into the world beyond. They had learned, too, by long deprivation, to yearn for the once neglected privileges of the Gospel. The seed sown in many churches, Sabbath-schools, and Christian homes, had been quickened in their hearts, under the perilous showers of shot and shell and minie balls through which they had passed. It was a field ripe and ready, whilst the laborers were few, indeed,—some whole brigades with only one chaplain, some, perhaps, without any.

Numerous hospitals here in Murfreesboro', as well as at Nashville, were crowded with sick and wounded, who welcomed them, and their publications, and delicacies, and cheer from home, and their religious instructions, with the greed of men long deprived and hungry. And at Nashville they were greeted by one scene calculated to move hearts of stone. An immense camp, crowded with thousands of convalescents,—men wounded in the great battle three months before, now so far recovered as to be ordered out of the hospital to this camp, to await still farther increase of strength, and consequent orders to rejoin their regiments,—men just risen from days and weeks of prostration by fever and other diseases,—men who had been trembling over the brink of the grave, now tremblingly rising back again into life,—men needing nicely prepared food, without which recovery must proceed slowly and uncertainly, or relapse come and carry them quickly away,—men needing the warm shirt, drawers, stockings, or blanket to shield them from the chill air of night,

and aid them in regaining strength,—men who had lost their Testaments in the fight,—men who had not heard a sermon or prayer since entering the service at the beginning of the war,—men idle all the day long, with nothing to read, and nothing to do, but the mischief always found by Satan for idle hands, playing cards, until card-playing was not play but work, listening to oaths and obscenity until its novelty was gone, its wit stale, and it was sickening to hear,—men above all who, in the long rest of hospital life, had reviewed the past with sorrow and regret, and looked out into the future with apprehension and fear, and who would fain make their peace with God, and secure a good hope of heaven before entering again upon the exciting scenes of active service, or taking the hazards of another battle. Everywhere, at Nashville and Murfreesboro', in the hospitals and tented field, in barracks and great permanent camps, an open door, which no man could shut, presented itself, and a wide field, strangely, wonderfully inviting,—but who should enter it? How was it to be supplied? What were four delegates and seven boxes to the tens of thousands of famishing, perishing ones there?

Now steam was for once found too slow, and the free electricity of the telegraph lines bore the repeated and urgent call northward for delegates, publications, and stores. Delegates volunteered—a noble band—at the call, with a magic promptitude, showing the agency in their hearts of the same invisible power preparing them beforehand to go that had been silently at work making ready the field to receive them, and raising up the agency to send them to it. Stores, also, flowed in as if the fountains—the ladies' societies—had been suddenly filled and opened by the same magic power.

Strangely enough, in these days of steam-presses and publishing establishments, the one thing which could not be supplied without painful delay, in anything like the number and amount required to meet the emergency, was suitable publications. Testaments and hymn-books could not be printed fast enough. The American Bible Society with its appliances turning out seven thousand copies of the Testament daily, soon, it is true, overtook and supplied this most urgent of all wants of the work; but for weeks and weeks the constant clamor for hymn-



books was unsatisfied. The Commission never sells. *Freely receive, freely give*, is its invariable principle. But the want of hymn-books was so great, that the men of the Army of the Cumberland would gladly have paid *five times the cost* for many thousands, if by this means they could have obtained them. *Seventy thousand* the field agent estimated as the number needed for distribution, whilst the army should remain at rest; but he feared to ask them for gratuitous bestowal. The answer, however, was, "Seventy thousand you shall have as soon as steam-power can print them for you and transport them to you."

Permanent stations were established, manned, and supplied at Nashville, Camp Convalescent, Murfreesboro', and the great army centres in the city of tents. And now opens a work to gladden the hearts of the good upon earth and in heaven. The suffering are kindly cared for and comforted; warm clothing is put upon shivering limbs; the Good Samaritan work of every kind is gladly done and gratefully received; all of which is incidental, preliminary, preparatory. Thirty-five thousand Testaments, thirty thousand soldiers' hymn and psalm books, and a world of religious reading is distributed. Daily prayer-meetings are held at all the stations. Every station has its free writing table, and thousands of letters are written home which never would have been written but for the facilities thus afforded the soldiers.

The faithful but discouraged chaplain takes heart; his hands are filled with something precious for his boys to read; he meets them with the sunshine of satisfaction on his face, and they greet him with grateful words of delight as he steps into their tents with his Testaments, papers, and tracts. As the hymn-books find their way into all circles, the sweet strains of familiar melodies, hallowed by the dearest memories of home, are heard in the manly tones of the soldier everywhere. "Not with observation," not with any grand demonstration or outward show, but silently as the dawn steals over the face of nature a new moral face is given to the army.

The Gospel is preached from tent to tent, hospital to hospital, camp to camp, and with it the power of God is manifested in measure never before equalled on any similar field. From the chiefs of the army, more than one of whom have themselves in

many ways freely borne witness to the fact, down to the drummer boys, hearts are moved by heavenly influence, profanity is hushed and abashed, intemperance is checked, discontent and despondency cured, wanderers reclaimed, and sinners led to Him who alone can give repentance and remission of sins.

In Camp Convalescent, in a meeting one moonlight night, some five hundred rise at one time in token of desire that Christians shall intercede with God for their salvation. In the hospitals and in the city of tents there is one wide-spread and glorious revival, the results of which will be known in their fullest extent only in that day when the King of kings shall make up his jewels, and they that are joyously ushered into the light of the knowledge of God shall be gathered in glory.

The later days of April, all of May, and three-fourths of June, pass away filled up with these blessed scenes.

Meanwhile, by this very means, in aid of the more direct measures of the military and medical departments, the army is steadily gathering moral and physical readiness for anticipated movements and battles. Finally, after preparations, reviews, reconnoissances, all are ready; rations are packed, tents are struck, and on the 24th day of June the great host moves off in martial order, in expectation of a terrible battle within a few hours at most. The field, far and wide, white with tents and alive with the dwellers therein only a few hours before, is left, and presents a scene even more sad than the deserted village of the Irish poet, a deserted camp. Many of the delegates, with battle-field stores, follow on with the army. The stations of the Commission out through the army are all broken up, and their effects brought within the encircling line of fortifications defending the post of Murfreesboro'. And thus ends the second campaign—the first under the permanent field agency—of the delegate work of the United States Christian Commission in the Army of the Cumberland.

The great army moves on. Manchester is reached the 27th of July, and Winchester also. The enemy, instead of waiting and resisting its oncoming, falls back. Winchester, one of the most beautiful of all the Southern Tennessee villages, imme-

diately becomes headquarters. The favor of corps commanders opens two churches for daily service to the delegates. Their work is extended to the camps far and near. The meetings are thronged with officers and soldiers. The services borrow impressiveness from memories of the past, and from anticipations of the stern realities toward which they are pressing. Here scenes of personal religious interest transpire, which will be held in everlasting remembrance. Victories are gained by many greater than that of him that taketh a city.

The advance, however, is not stayed. Onward still move the martial columns through the deserted camps and abandoned works of the retreating foe. Tullahoma is reached August 1st, and nothing found but the desolating footprints of the hosts still hurrying away. Halting here for two or three days' rest with the army, the commander assigns the delegates a commodious store in a central position, and almost before the soldiers' tents are pitched a Christian Commission station, with all its appliances, is opened on the main street, for their relief and benefit. Abundant occasion the delegates find to ply their skill and use some, at least, of the clothing and comforts they have brought with them; for the fatigues of the march and the diseases incident to exposure and hardship in the midsummer's heat, have overborne not a few. Still onward they go, closely following up the foe, and still expecting a stand to be made, and a terrible grapple, decisive of the relative strength of the two armies, if not indeed of the fate of one or the other.

At Stevenson, a point is reached in the valley of the Tennessee River favorable for a great military depot, consisting of warehouses, workshops, and hospitals, and at once it is decided to establish it. This presents another field for the Good Samaritans, and instantly a station is opened. The commander assigns them the only church in the place, and religious services are here as elsewhere begun, while at the same time efficient preparations are made, and substantial service for the bodily relief of those who are suffering is rendered.

Again the army moves, only to find at Bridgeport, July 7th, ten miles above, the enemy across the Tennessee, and the bridge burned behind them. Fourteen days' hard marching over the rough, rugged mountain roads, brings them at last upon the

western bank of the Tennessee, within ear-shot, speaking by the word of the cannon's mouth, of the famous rebel stronghold, Chattanooga. A few explosive words of warning are sent shrieking across, and then preparation is made to bridge the river by pontoons and carry the place by assault. Nine days consumed in crossing, and ten more in the dispositions needful for the attack, give the enemy time for the conviction that the path of safety is the path of retreat, and Chattanooga, the mountain Gibraltar, is occupied without a struggle. This triumph, however, though bloodless, is not achieved without fearful sacrifice in the number prostrated by over-fatigue and disease. Scarce ten days for rest and preparation intervene before yet another advance is made. Meanwhile the suffering ones must be tenderly cared for and saved, if good nursing, comfortable clothing, and suitable diet in aid of medical skill can do it ; or, these failing, the poor boys must be counselled, comforted, pointed to Jesus ; their final messages and tokens taken and transmitted to the sorrow-stricken ones at home ; and when gone, the sad rites of the soldier's Christian burial must be rendered to the earthly tenement they leave behind. All this to the utmost of their strength—yes, and beyond their strength—the delegates are forward to do.

Behind them, they have left stations along the line stretching from Nashville to Chattanooga, in readiness for future work. And now, as active preparations are making for a further advance, they begin to count upon an extension of this Christian Commission chain of posts by another link stretching to Atlanta.

Once more the army moves, not far this time until met in the anticipated deadly grapple by the foe strongly reinforced. The conflict is terrible ; the slaughter on both sides immense. The centre is pierced : one wing gives way, and seeks safety within the fortified lines of Chattanooga ; the other wing, unbroken, repulses the enemy. While the battle rages, delegates of the Commission are under fire. When the forces he is with are compelled to retire, leaving their wounded behind them, one of the delegates, Rev. John Hussey, of Ohio, with several surgeons, refusing to seek safety by abandoning the fallen men, is captured and sent to Richmond. This happens on the 19th and

20th of September. On the night of the 21st, the undaunted wing is also withdrawn, and all are now in defensive position.

Meanwhile, appeals for delegates and stores in anticipation of the battle have not been wholly in vain. The first man heeding the call reaches Chattanooga as the opposing lines along the Chicamauga are opening fire. As the battle rages, its fearful effects become painfully manifest. Hundreds of army wagons come in, fleeing from the danger; thousands of wounded men, some on foot, some on cannon trucks, some in wagons, and more in ambulances, pour into the town, through dense clouds of dust, and with "garments rolled in blood." The newly arrived delegate hastens to procure an ambulance, and goes out to meet the blinded, exhausted, maimed, mangled, fainting sufferers, and helps them to the hospitals. Soon the incoming tide fills up and overfills the hospitals, and flows out and flows on from Chattanooga to Bridgeport, Stevenson, Cowan, Tullahoma, Winchester, Murfreesboro', Nashville, meeting, as it goes, the newly summoned delegates, hastening forward to reinforce the several stations.

At Stevenson, as on Thursday, the 24th, the first trains with their burden of mangled heroes come in, scenes are witnessed worthy the pencil of a West. Many of the wounded have walked all the way from the battle-field to the railroad terminus at Bridgeport. All are faint and weary. Three days they have been without a single meal, and almost without food, and are starving. The acting field agent has come from the front just in advance of this tide of sufferers, to hasten forward delegates and supplies. He has despatched a noble band of new-comers, but has still with him some capital workers. What are they, however, and what their stores among so many? He is at his wit's end; yet his wits do not forsake him. He strikes the plan. Instantly an appeal is made to Colonel Lyon, commanding, and instantly the Colonel responds. The following orders are given:

OFFICE ISSUING COMMISSARY,  
STEVENSON, ALA., September 24, 1863.

**ALL BAKERIES AT THIS POST:**

You will deliver to Rev. Benjamin Parsons, Field Agent of the United States Christian Commission, all the fresh bread that

he may need for the use of wounded soldiers, taking his receipt for the same. I will replace the bread with flour pound for pound. This to remain in force until further orders.

J. R. FITCH,

Captain and Acting Commissary.

And next this order:

STEVENSON, ALA., September 24, 1863.

ISSUING CLERK:

Deliver to Rev. Benjamin Parsons, Field Agent United States Christian Commission, what sugar and coffee he may need, taking his receipt for the same.

J. R. FITCH,

Captain, &c.

Thus favored by the authorities, the workers remaining here set at once about giving bread and coffee to the hungry and thirsty soldiers. On Thursday, they distribute ten hundred and twenty-four loaves; Friday they distribute eight hundred and fifty loaves; making a total of eighteen hundred and seventy-four loaves. They obtain army kettles, and by negro aid, cook, and themselves, chiefly, distribute one hundred and fifty gallons of coffee.

Beginning to feel the magnitude of the work on their hands, they appeal again to the noble-hearted Colonel, who gives them a detail of fifty men to help them. They select twenty-five of the number, place twelve on duty, and hold the others as a "reserve corps." Next they secure from Quartermaster Captain Warren a large tent, already pitched on the railroad depot platform, just where they want it; and finally, to expedite coffee-making, they obtain from the provost-marshal an order entitling them, "in preference to all others," to water from the tank. Now they are prepared for work, and are amused, in spite of all there is to sadden and sicken the heart, with the position they occupy,—a little band of Christian Commission men, with hundreds—yes, thousands—looking upon them as feeders of no small or unimportant portion of the Army of the Cumberland; and they are delighted, overjoyed, to see how the brave men, who are suffering the agony of a thousand deaths in the anguish of wounds and the faintness of hunger and exhaustion, are revived, cheered, filled with gratitude, and constrained to break

forth in rough, ready, hearty expressions, which borrow pathos from their tears and tones of joy, saying, "God bless you!" "Bully for the Christian Commission!" "These Christians are about the best people in the world after all!"

These are the scenes—many in number and variety, one in Christlike relief to the suffering—witnessed all along this sad tide of martyr patriots, pouring down from the bloody fountain on the Chicamauga all the way to the great Bethesda, with its twenty-three hospital porches, at Nashville. But why attempt description? It is useless. No pen, pencil, or tongue can ever reproduce them in their living power and pathos. The patience, even cheerfulness, of the maimed and mangled ones, is the most wonderful feature of all. A grand compensation is kindly provided in these cases, which often sinks out of sight the loss of limbs, and out of mind the present anguish of the most terrible wounds. The memories of other scenes, of deeds of daring, of hairbreadth escapes, of laurels achieved, are recounted to themselves and recalled to others; and as they pass the many places of interesting reminiscence, memory brings forth her old treasures with the new.

As they pass the old battle-field of Stone River, and the camping grounds they occupied so long, they fight the battle over again, and live anew the scenes of the camp. This draws with it every other link of the long martial chain, and carries them over Shiloh, Perryville, Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge, and every other field on which they have fought. With these come other memories, more hallowed and more precious, of which they speak with the frankness of the soldier and the gladness of the Christian. Passing the remains of a brush camp, one exclaims, "Yes, partners, I know as much of those fights as any one; but there, that brush camp is a spot that I shall remember when these battles are all forgot." "What happened there?" "There I found Jesus." His was the representative voice of thousands, some of whom live to fight the remaining battles of the war, and to gladden and enjoy again peaceful, honorable homes under the vindicated flag of the nation, whilst others have gone up to enjoy happier homes, and to be stars in a more glorious kingdom in heaven.

At once a new campaign opens, more vigorous, exciting, and

trying than all before it. The enemy assumes the offensive, presses Chattanooga, threatens assault, but commences a siege, endangers the line of supply, and creates apprehensions of a flank movement to isolate the army, and reduce it to the alternative of abandoning its strong position and cutting its way out, or risking the necessity for a final surrender.

Sixty miles of wagoning over rough, rocky, rutty, precipitous mountain roads, in the face of a watchful, adventurous foe, familiar with every pass of the mountains, and every step of the way, perilous even if there were no foe watching to strike, puts the gallant army to sad straits for subsistence. The enemy is boastfully expectant of driving it from Tennessee, and even presumptuously hopeful of its capture or utter destruction.

The whole country is moved. The Government is roused. The western departments are consolidated, and made to pour upward along the streams coming down from the mountains of Tennessee their reinforcing columns. The eastern departments contribute their veterans; and soon the cheering news goes abroad that the beleaguered army is beginning successfully to make the offensive, and is flanking its besiegers by a movement of the forces newly arrived.

The military necessities of the situation, however, trench heavily upon the Christian Commission facilities for receiving supplies. We share with the Government both the perils and the losses incident to the forty miles mountain transportation. Seventeen wagon-loads of choice hospital stores, with a fine library and good stock of reading, are captured and burned by guerillas on the mountains. O what a world of comfort and benefit to the soldiers is lost in this one mountain conflagration!

*Bridgeport* is made the headquarters of the newly arrived Eleventh Corps. Here the delegates find abundant work amongst the families of the suffering citizens, as well as the soldiers. At the request of the corps commander the delegates take charge of the poor families around, draw and dispense to them rations for their weekly supply, to save them from starving, open a school for their children in a tent pitched and furnished with benches and desks by the quartermaster for the purpose, and another for contrabands, old and young, to which must be added, as the crowning feature of this station of tents, the chapel tent for the



soldiers, filled daily with eager worshippers, and made the gate of heaven to many who joyously enter in.

*At Chattanooga* the work is greatly embarrassed for want of supplies; not, however, by any unwillingness on the part of the commander of the newly formed general department, for one of his early orders requires:

*That all officers under his command shall afford every facility consistent with the public service to all delegates of the United States Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power.*

*That passes and transportation shall always be granted them for themselves, and for stores and publications, upon all Government railroads and steamers.*

*And that the privilege shall be extended to them of purchasing stores of the Commissary Department the same as officers do.*

But orders cannot instantly lay down the double track of a long line of railway, or level down mountains and fill up valleys, and cast up a highway in the wilderness, even for Good Samaritans and their supplies to pass over. A reinforcement of delegates, however, reaches Chattanooga. The hospitals are visited daily, and everything done to cheer, instruct, and save the hundreds crowding the general field hospital, and the buildings used as hospitals in the town.

But ah, how the lesson is now made to sink down by the weight of daily repetition, that words, mere words, are empty when unaccompanied with deeds; that religious counsels to men suffering for suitable food fall on the ear, but fail to reach the heart; that the shortest way to the heart of the hungry is through the stomach; that the principle of the Christian Commission in carrying bodily relief in one hand, and religious benefits in the other, is the only true wisdom! Nevertheless, they do what they can, and God blesses what they do.

Amongst other expedients, a church edifice is secured. Daily services are held, in which chaplains and delegates work together, as they always do wherever the circumstances are propitious. The church is crowded from night to night half an hour before the appointed time; and every night from one to two scores of soldiers seek special direction to the Saviour, and special re-

membrance before God, that he may guide them into the way of life.

Two whole months—long months—in Chattanooga, pass away in preparations. At last all things are ready. Cartridges are stowed, rations put up and packed, orders are given, and with the morning's dawn the movement is to begin. It is to be the last night at the chapel. To-morrow the building is to be cleared, in readiness for a new set of occupants. Cots are to replace the seats, surgeons the delegates, wounded men the worshippers, and the worshippers of to-night are to march in the morning; and at night where are they to be? They are to march in the morning in full expectation of storming the strongholds of the enemy through the hailstorm of death; and what can sustain them but the strong hand of Him who conquered death, and who alone can give them the victory? O what a meeting is this! It begins in painful solemnity. Soon the Christian's high vantage-ground of faith in God is gained. Still higher the souls of the worshippers continue to rise, until the rock of Christian triumph is reached.

"They have climbed where Moses stood,  
And view the landscape o'er;  
Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,  
Can fright them from the shore."

The morning comes, the morning of November 23d, and with the morning comes the marshalled advance. In open day they march boldly out. The enemy looks on, and yet does not believe his own eyes. A mere feint, he thinks it, and is taken wholly by surprise when the attack begins. The roar of musketry, the boom of the cannon, the whistle of bullets, the shriek of shells, and the rush of the charge, serve at last to convince him. He is driven from all his front line of works. Early on the 24th the terrible work is resumed. With little expectation of carrying Lookout Mountain by a front attack, ascending the steep acclivity, the assault is made. The enemy gives way; hope is quickened, impulse swells. With shouts of triumph, onward, upward they rush, carrying all before them. The summit is gained. Lookout is ours.

Meanwhile, the flanking force comes on up out of the Lookout

Valley from the south, sweeping all before them in their "fight above the clouds;" and the mountain is cleared of all the foe, his last works carried, and many of his guns, with thousands of his men, are captured. With the dawn of the 25th the triumphant columns push forward across the valley to the assault and conquest of Missionary Ridge, and the victory is complete. The enemy is routed, and driven back to Ringgold.

Through these days of triumph, on Lookout Mountain, in Lookout Valley, and on Missionary Ridge, the Good Samaritans are along the bloody track, taking up the fallen, binding up their wounds, pouring in the oil and the wine, taking messages, tokens, and memoranda of the dying for the comfort of the bereaved, pointing them and commending them in prayer to Jesus, and in every way giving willing aid to the surgeons, as best they may, in their sad and arduous work.

The flying enemy are pursued the 26th, 27th, 28th, and on, until overtaken at Ringgold, where, December 1st, the pursuing column receives a bloody check, and not being in sufficient force to give general battle, withdraws and returns to Chattanooga, where the army is concentrated to rest from their campaign of triumph, in preparation for still another when the time shall come. Not all, however. A strong column is still out for the relief of the gallant but imperilled army in East Tennessee. At Ringgold, besides the dead, who are buried, about eighty fall wounded, and are brought back in ambulances, two days on their painful journey before reaching Chattanooga. Two delegates, with an ambulance and supplies, go out in the night and meet them. Nothing could be more providentially opportune. The surgeons had dispatched a messenger for stimulants, and he returned with empty bottles. O how joyous are they, as well as the poor sufferers, when, in this strait, the indefatigable Good Samaritans announce themselves, with their brandy, condensed milk, camp-kettles, and everything to meet the case!

Thus relieved, refreshed, and strengthened, when the morning comes this train of wounded heroes resumes its painful course; and when it enters Chattanooga all safe, the surgeon in charge breathes more freely, and turning to the delegates, says, "Six of these men, now safe here, would have died before morning if

you had not met us last night as you did." This is pay enough for the delegates; they ask no more. Their hearts are full.

The news of the great battle flashes over the wires, and thrills the hearts of millions with joy for the victory, and loving sympathy for the wounded heroes who have bought it with their blood. Hundreds are ready to fly to their relief. The line of transportation, however, is overcrowded. Comparatively few can go. They find a world of work, and a greater world of welcome. The railway, too, is opened anew to Chattanooga from Bridgeport, and supplies come more freely through. One of the newly-arrived delegates, amongst other evidences of appreciation, has his heart gladdened in the field hospital, two miles out of Chattanooga, by circumstances like this. He is in a tent, writing a letter for one who is too badly wounded to hold a pen. A man comes in with stationery for sale, asking an exorbitant price for it. One of the men, rising upon his elbow in his cot, remarks to the vendor of paper, "You will find no sale here. The Christian Commission sends this man not only to give us paper, but to write letters home for us when we are too sick, and gives us a little book into the bargain."

But the scenes of these closing days of the year at Chattanooga, and all along the line of the tide of wounded men from there to the ample hospitals of Nashville, must be left entirely to imagination.

Sketched, as it has been, in briefest outline, this work, in the Army of the Cumberland, is trenching too much upon space justly claimed by other fields. In closing, a word must be added briefly unfolding the work at Cowan, not even noticed in passing, and another expanding the too-meagre outline of that done at Nashville.

*Cowan* is in Tennessee, about midway between Murfreesboro, in the same state, and Stevenson, Alabama. In the summer, it was made the place of an immense field hospital, filled with victims of overfatigue in the broiling heat. Soon, however, as the army advanced, it was converted into a camp for convalescents. The large numbers gathered here, their desolate condition, want of clothing and diet suitable for men in their delicate state, their

craving for sympathy, their need of kind care and kind words, and their eagerness for religious instruction, drew largely upon the hearts and hands of the delegates sent to them. Shirts, drawers, and socks, clean and comfortable, given at the right moment, with words of cheer, might and would in many a case become the pivot of recovery, or withheld, would leave the suffering ones to the chills of the night and the colder chills of despondency, sinking them quickly to the grave. Some proper nourishment, nicely prepared and rightly bestowed, in many another case would save from death. And how could they fail to be moved to almost superhuman exertion to meet the wants of these men and save them alive?

They were hungry for the Gospel, too, scores upon scores of them, just in position to be pointed to Jesus, to look and live or go on their way and die. They flocked to the services in the open air, and hung upon the lips of the delegates in the hospital and in the tents, and ate up their words. What wonder, then, that the excitement lifted the workers above their own powers of endurance and impelled them beyond the bounds of prudence, even to prostration? One who was borne upon the bubble of excitement through all until he left the ground, then sunk down; but, after much suffering, rose again finally to health. Two others were overborne and stricken with fever, from which one, after lying long at death's door, finally recovered. But, alas! the other, Rev. A. R. Dyer, of Maine, after partial recovery and removal to Nashville, died on Sunday, November 15, 1863. The work at Cowan cost a terrible price; but who that knows anything of the lives saved there, and of the souls converted to God, will say that the price, after all, was too dear?

The death of another delegate at Nashville, not however chargeable to the work at Cowan, may as well be mentioned in this connection,—that of Rev. Frank Heron Power. At the front he overworked and fell sick, but recovered again, and started for home. On the way he was drawn into the work again by his sympathy for suffering men, and soon exhausted himself beyond the power of all medical skill, and all kindness and care. He died October 16, 1863.

Still another name remains to be mentioned in this list of the fallen. David Brown, a young man of promise and of the true

martyr spirit. He, however, reached his father's house, in Tridelfia, Va., where he was prostrated by the fever which terminated his life, on the 8th day of July, 1863, at the age of twenty-two years.

Our Saviour commended the poor widow for her two mites cast into the treasury, because it was all the living she had. What would he have said to Dyer, Powers, and Brown, who cast in life itself into the scale for his glory? Truly, none have given, none can give more for this or any other work than has been given by these dear departed brethren.

*Nashville.* If the scenes of the work in Nashville were written out, they alone would fill volumes, and if graphically and truthfully portrayed, few volumes ever written would equal them in intensity of interest. They *are* written in heaven, and in fragments in the hearts also of thousands on earth. Here is the great Convalescent Camp, with its population daily changing and daily under the influence of the Gospel, with its benign preface of clothing for the needy, delicate nutriment for the weak, and kind words and deeds for all, and its increasing manifestation of power unto salvation. Here are the twenty-three hospitals, in one of which alone one delegate who, upon his first visit, found only one man willing to ask before his comrades to be pointed to Jesus; but who, on the occasion of his final visit, found all, save two, willing to express their joyous assurance of salvation received or their ardent desire for its attainment.

Here are the barracks, with a population more fluctuating still than that of Camp Convalescent, but ready to receive and carry with them, as they go on their way from this lodging-place for the night, the good seed daily sown amongst them. Here is the daily prayer-meeting in the church in the city, and here are the camps, batteries, and guard stations all around it.

Here, at No. 6 Cherry Street, central to all these, are the headquarters of the Commission, a store-room, twenty by sixty feet; the front used as a reading-room, furnished with a free writing-table; the leading secular and religious papers on file; a circulating library of more than two thousand books, either on shelves or abroad amongst the soldiers, with the following card on the table, to be read by all comers:

"The newspapers hanging on the files are dailies and week-

lies from your state and county. Sit down and read. The *writing-table and stationery* on the left are for your use. They want to hear from you at *home*.

"*If out of stamps*, drop your letter in the box—we will stamp and mail it. Those Testaments, hymn-books, and religious papers *were sent to you*—take one. That library back of the railing has many interesting books; find the one you like, have it recorded, and return it in five days. If you are in trouble, speak to any agent in the room; *you are the one he wants to see*. At 3½ P.M. everybody come to our 'prayer-meeting' in the Second Presbyterian Church, College Street, below the public square.

"*The Saviour will be there. He says, 'Come.'*"

Here the boxes are brought to be opened, sorted, repacked and shipped off to the different stations.

And here come the delegates, to remain and work in this immense cluster of parishes, in far greater number in proportion than can be sent forward to the front stations in the army.

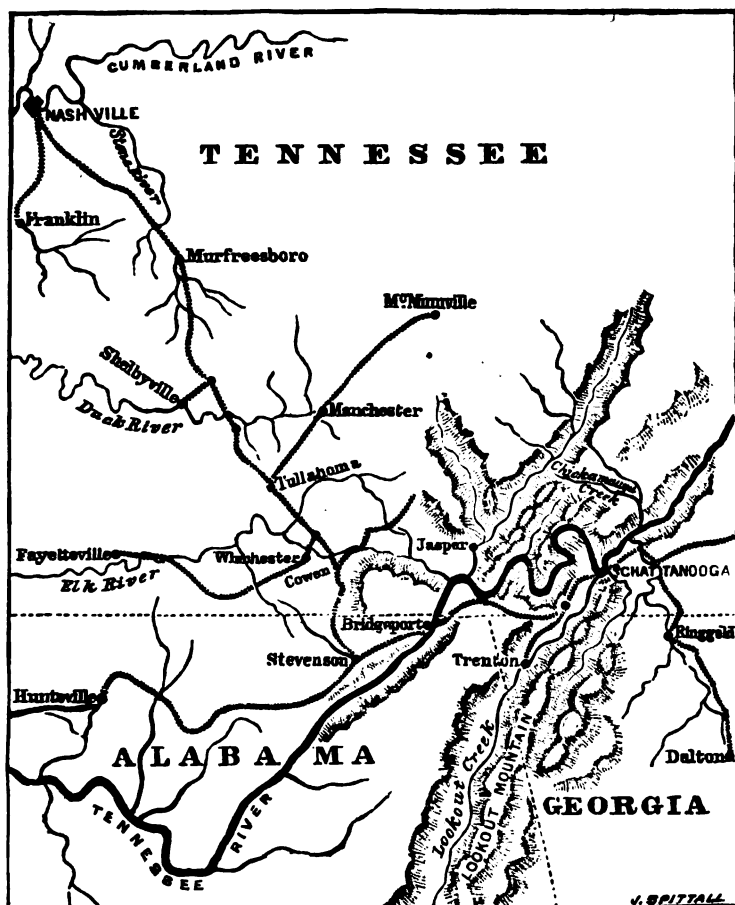
Every army has its base of supplies, which is also the point of convergence to which all soldiers come in, whether going to the front or returning from it. And this is also a point of divergence from which the army is reached, in all its parts, by supplies and recruits not only, but by influences for good or for evil.

This relation Nashville sustains to the Army of the Cumberland; and what is done here, is done for the whole army. It is, therefore, matter of profound gratitude to God, that the pillar of the Divine presence has never for one day been taken away from the little band of Christian Commission workers here, numbering at most, when largest, not over thirty, generally much less; nor the waters of life ceased to flow from the smitten Rock, assuaging the thirst of the weary.

Here, month after month, men have come in from all parts of the army. Some of them, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, have been pointed to Jesus and filled, and have gone out again or gone home to tell others of their joy in God, or gone to heaven to join the glad throng above.

Here, from battle-fields and hospitals at the front, have been brought the helpless and laid in the many porches of this Bethesda to await the coming of the angel; and, when he came, the delegates have borne them to the healing waters.

# MAP OF THE FIELD.



## U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION STATIONS

IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Nashville, Tennessee.  
 Murfreesboro, "  
 Tullahoma, "  
 Winchester, "  
 Cowan, "

Stevenson, Alabama.  
 Bridgeport, "  
 Chattanooga, Tennessee.  
 Huntsville, Alabama.  
 Lookout.



That the Christian Commission is appreciated highly by men of every rank in the army has been shown in many ways, and it is gratifying to know that it is rising in general estimation continually.

The chaplains were the first to hail it with joy and commend it heartily to all, as they did in the following resolution, passed at a general meeting of theirs, in which thirty-three were present, by unanimous vote.

“*Resolved*, That we hail with gratitude to God the advent of the delegates of the Christian Commission among us; that they have our thanks for the supply of religious reading furnished us, and that we assure them that we shall be happy to cooperate with them in sowing the good seed in this vast field of labor.”

The corps commanders—several of them—have given the influence of their presence at many of the meetings held by delegates of the Commission, and have most cheerfully afforded every possible facility for the prosecution of the work. One of them appointed the acting field agent on his staff, to give him the power to accompany the army himself, and to command facilities for his fellow-workers also. The distinguished commander of the consolidated departments, comprising the general department of the Mississippi, has uniformly manifested his hearty confidence and high estimation for the Commission whenever and wherever he has had occasion to do it; and soon after taking his present high position, he gave the following order, valuable first, and chiefly, because it facilitates the work, and cheers all engaged in it, and only less so as a testimony to the people at home that their liberality to the soldiers, through the Commission, is appreciated by their commanders of the highest rank.

### Special Order of General Grant.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,  
IN THE FIELD, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,

December 12, 1863.

*Special Orders No. 32. Ex.*

All officers holding commands in the Military Division of the Mississippi are hereby required to extend every facility, not inconsistent with the public service, to all delegates of the United

States Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power to the accomplishment of the benevolent and charitable purposes of the Commission.

Permission will at all times be granted by the proper military authorities to such delegates to pass to all parts within the lines, without hindrance or molestation.

The Commissary Department will at all times sell to such delegates, upon certificates similar to those given by officers, such stores as they may need for their own use.

Military telegraph lines will transmit for such delegates all messages relating to the business of the Commission.

The Quartermaster's Department will, upon application, furnish such delegates and their stores free transportation upon all Government steamers and military railroads to and from such points within the military division as their duties may require them to visit.

By order of Major-General U. S. GRANT.

GEORGE K. LEET,

Assistant Adjutant General.

REV. E. P. SMITH,

General Field Agent United States Christian Commission.

The various evidences of a high valuation placed by the soldiers themselves are, of all others, most gratifying. If these were wanting, if the soldiers were averse or indifferent to the Commission and its benefits, all besides would go for very little. They, however, on all occasions, and in a vast variety of ways, show the warmest love for it, and the most grateful estimation of the good it is doing.

The hearty, "God bless the Christian Commission," is the daily cheer given by the soldiers to the delegates in their work. Contributions are never asked from them, yet they are constantly making them. Small regiments, out of the limited pay they receive for the perilous and often hard service they render, have, in some instances, given more than large and wealthy churches.

Out of the many letters of thanks, and expressions of gratitude and good will, the two following have been selected. The army of the nation has in its ranks multitudes of men of ability

to write as well as to fight, men who have power to "discern between good and evil," and hearts to appreciate everything noble, of whom evidently are the writers of these communications, written manifestly for newspaper publication, though never published as intended.

### The Christian Commission.

NASHVILLE, TENN., November 15, 1863.

It is not less a duty than also proper to inform the public of the direction their contributions to the Christian Commission have taken. Being placed in a position from which he could see its operations on an extended scale, the undersigned can, with heartfelt confidence, assert that the intentions of the contributors have been fully carried out.

He has seen regiments and brigades, after a wearisome march, scarcely arrived at camp, when the delegate of the Christian Commission appeared, with greetings from his benevolent heart, and stores of good things in his haversack. Not a more busy man could stand beside him within the encircled camp-ground. From soldier to soldier, from tent to tent, he made his rounds, presenting to one a book, another a tract or pamphlet. Some boys needed writing materials; others wanted note-paper and envelopes. All were glad to receive reading-matter in the various forms at his command, and all were presented, according to their various wants, with what he had on hand. Comforts for the outer man were properly distributed, and due attention to the spiritual interests of the soldiers were promptly paid. The Holy Scriptures were read; a hymn once hallowed by the choral voices of parents, sisters, friends, was sung; a prayer was offered from the altar of the camp-ground to the Lord of Hosts on high; an exhortation given to be as faithful soldiers to the Captain of our salvation as they were sworn to be to their superiors in command. The emotions of many a sunburnt soldier, deep sunk, buried down in his heart, would oftentimes well forth, and its sluice-gates give way with copious tears of penitence, causing rejoicing among the marshalled hosts of heaven over one more sinner who had repented, and given his heart to God.

After many a sanguinary battle, it was the delegate of the Christian Commission who was first on hand, reached a cooling

draught of water, staunched a bleeding wound, conversed upon the eternal interests of the soul, pointing to the bleeding, mangled Jesus upon the cross as the Lord, Saviour, everpresent help, and oftentimes closed their eyelids when death approached to give release to suffering pains and mortal woe. When the wounded, sick, disabled soldiers were conveyed to the hospital, the delegate of the Christian Commission appeared; was the first man to speak words of comfort, and offer a prayer to the Great Physician to give the needed aid; became the balm of Gilead, and would not leave the man before presenting him with a copy of the Holy Scriptures, a hymn-book, tract, book, or paper, to fasten deep the truth of which he now stood so much in need. Upon each succeeding day the delegate would be on hand, dispensing social, spiritual converse to all within his reach. Was reading matter wanted? it was bestowed. Pens, ink, paper, envelopes, stamps? they were given. Superscription upon letters? it was done. Or needles, thread, buttons, sewing-materials desired? the all-sufficient housewife, or comfort-bag, was presented, with its so admirably supplied contents, containing even a pretty note from the still prettier donor, with her prayers and address, making a bridge of communication 'twixt Dixie's land and our ever-faithful, all-glorious Uncle Sam's domain. Did some one long for a taste of the good things prepared by dainty hands at home, by consent of the surgeon, the Christian Commission brought forth many a can of fruit, of jelly, of oysters, and other luxuries, as likewise articles of clothing, all liberally bestowed, to fit for duty at the front, and facilitate a speedy convalescence for return to duty at the post of honor, peril, and great purposes. Again, a battle had occurred. Whole squads of wounded came crowding into the hospitals. Lint, bandages, muslins, rags, flannel, &c., were required. The Christian Commission at once supplied the requisition. I know of no case when a soldier actually needed any article in store of the Christian Commission where it was not cheerfully presented to the extent of their means on hand. In view of all these facts, I can most cordially certify that the articles sent to the agency of the Christian Commission here, at Nashville, have been judiciously distributed. They have reached the wounded, sick, and disabled soldiers, for whom they were intended, both in field and hospital.

They were received with grateful hearts, conduced much to their good, and doubtless every object had in view by the donors of the money, books, fruits, clothing, and all other articles presented to the Christian Commission, have been fully accomplished. Great good has been done by every donation, and no evil could result therefrom to the soldier, the only regret being that the supply was not equal to the demand. Among the agencies designed for the comfort, well-being, and best interests of the soldiers of the United States army, none are held in higher esteem, nor deserve profounder gratitude, than the truly patriotic, heaven-blessed Christian Commission, with its noble corps of intelligent, gentlemanly, pious, disinterested, and self-sacrificing agents, delegates, and contributors.

May heaven's richest blessing crown all concerned with an everlasting and eternal weight of glory. May seraphs, ministering angels round the throne of God on high, leave their majestic seats, and blend their hallowed efforts to further on the work of the Christian Commission.

GEORGE W. SHIDEY,

General Hospital United States Army No. 19.

NASHVILLE, September 17, 1863.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I have for the past few weeks felt a strong desire to give expression of my gratitude to the delegates of the Christian Commission for their labors in behalf of my brother soldiers and myself, and thought perhaps you would give my short letter a place in your columns. They are doing a great amount of good in distributing books, tracts, and papers, and by conversing with the soldiers upon the all-important subject of religion.

I have been in the service long enough to know that the roughest soldier always rejoices when he sees a servant of God approaching, either for the purpose of distributing reading matter, or to speak and pray.

Our friends at home can hardly realize what a comfort it is to us, when called to lie upon a sick bed, to be permitted to converse with these men of God. We certainly need their aid when

well to assist us in overcoming temptations with which the path of the soldier is beset.

Could parents see their children as they are in the army, and think how they are hardened in sin, they would say with me, "Let us have the number of our delegates increased." If there is any place where religious men can do good, it is in the army. As it was only my desire to express my thanks to the Christian Commission through your paper, I draw my letter to a close.

D. S. SMITH,

A convalescent, General Hospital No. 19.

This notice of the estimation in which the work of the Christian Commission in the Army of the Cumberland is held, would be quite defective if there should not be added to the various expressions of it, from the rank and file of the army, something to illustrate the appreciation of it by the people at home who have sons, brothers, husbands and fathers in the army. For this, however, one letter must suffice.

DETROIT, September 30th, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: Having, with great thankfulness to God, heard by telegraph that my youngest son, Adjutant H. M. Duffield, is not wounded, and quite well at Chattanooga, I send you twenty dollars, as a thankoffering from a mother for the preservation of her son at the battle of Chickamauga. I should like the money appropriated where the most Michigan regiments are, but still I do not dictate. All souls are precious, and you can use it as you think best. May the blessing of our Father in heaven go with it!

I think of the Christian Commission and the Sanitary Commission as twin brothers going forward to their glorious work. Oh! my friend, what a field is open to Christians now, and how ought they to improve it in trying to rescue those who are "led captive by the Devil at his will." God bless you and the dear, precious Christian Commission! Surely the blessing of those who are ready to perish will rest upon you. Ah! little do you know how much comfort you give to anxious mothers when they

hear of your locations. "My boy is there," is her thought, and then she bows the knee and prays, that your labors may be blessed to him and others.

Surely it is like going out into the highways and hedges, when you look after the spiritual wants of soldiers. You *encourage* Christian soldiers, while you *awaken* the impenitent. Oh! how noble to be near the sick bed and cheer him with your blessed words,

"When the groan his faint heart giveth,  
Seems the last sigh of despair."

Oh! how I have wept and prayed for our beloved country. Two sons—one a Colonel, and the youngest, the Adjutant,—I gave. The Colonel is wounded so that he cannot go back to the army, and the dear young Adjutant has been in this battle. But I put him under the shadow of God's wing, and he has kept him safe. I am anxious, but still I say,

If new sorrow should befall,  
If my noble boy should fall,  
If the bright head I have blest,  
On the cold earth finds its rest,  
Still with all the mother's heart  
Torn and quivering with the smart,  
I yield him, 'neath thy chast'ning rod,  
To my country and my God

You will never know the good you have done till "God shall wipe away all tears from your eyes," and you see how many gems shall sparkle in your crown, which have been gathered from our army.

How much good your Commission has done! God bless you all! In haste,

Your sister in Christ,

ISABELLA G. DUFFIELD.

## WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO.

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WELCOME could not be more cheering and hearty than that given by the commander in the Department of the Ohio to the Christian Commission, when, in pursuance of the plan of permanent field organization, the agent and delegates presented themselves at his headquarters in the Queen City. They were made free to every camp, hospital, post, and guard-station in his department, and all respect, and every facility commanded for them by the kindest of special orders.

The Army of the Ohio had before it the desultory and difficult task of clearing Kentucky of guerillas before it could wisely concentrate and advance to the deliverance of East Tennessee, and most thoroughly and energetically was it addressed to this perplexing warfare.

Meanwhile, its necessary separation into small detachments, and its many movements in pursuit of marauding parties, was not the most favorable combination of circumstances for the delegate work of the Christian Commission.

Great armies concentrated, and at rest, in preparation for future campaigning, present opportunities the most inviting and inspiring of any ever offered on earth for the effective preaching of the Gospel, with a view to immediate results. O what a glorious field for a Whitefield, a Paul, or a John the Baptist, the Army of the Cumberland, or the Army of the Potomac, in winter quarters! Great battle-fields, while the conflict still rages, and men are falling by hundreds, and after the thunder of the battle is hushed, and its clouds lifted up, revealing the mangled heroes in their gore, call in a voice louder than the roar of artillery upon the Good Samaritan to stanch ebbing life, bind up ghastly wounds, receive last messages and tokens to loved ones at home,



and breathe comfort and hope through Christ into the spirit departing.

Neither the one or the other of these conditions, however, at the moment awaited the delegates in the Department of the Ohio. Yet great central military depots, with their vast permanent camps, barracks, and hospitals, are second only to concentrated armies at rest in the opportunities they offer to the evangelist, and second only to battle-fields in the urgency of their calls upon the Good Samaritan, and these did await and invite the delegates.

Such a depot was Camp Nelson, near Lexington, Kentucky. Strong by nature, it was also strongly fortified as a post. The soldiers manning the works were, of course, numerous. There were two hospitals filled with the wounded and sick, and a great many Government employés, teamsters included. The changeful population was in numbers unchangeably in excess of five thousand. Frequently, and for considerable periods, it may have been four or five times as many, as, for example, while the Ninth Army Corps was quartered there.

The delegates who were stationed here were in some respects quite remarkable. One of them, a pastor of twenty-five years' standing, had given himself to the work for the war. His salary as a pastor he relinquished to one who supplied his pulpit for him. His family at home—one son excepted, who was in the army—was supported by the voluntary contributions of one man, not to or through the Commission, but directly to the family. The Commission, indeed, knew nothing of this arrangement, or of the purpose of the delegate to go, until he presented himself, with every commendation and preparation, all ready to start, and no plan of return, the bridges all burnt behind him.

At Louisville, on their way to Camp Nelson, amongst other encouraging circumstances, inspiring them with hope of great good from their work, they met in the hospital a soldier of the 40th Indiana Regiment, who gave them an account of the remarkable results of a single suggestion made by one of the delegates of the Commission. The 40th was stationed for several weeks at Huntsville, Alabama. In accordance with the urgent suggestion of a delegate, seven men of Co. A determined to have a regimental prayer-meeting. They gave notice that, on a certain evening, under a certain tree, such a meeting would

be held, to which all were cordially invited. Five weeks the seven alone met; yet they always did meet. Then one and another began to drop in. Soon the whole regiment, officers and men, gathered to the meeting. The tree was abandoned as the place, and a deserted church secured in the town. Then another regiment, then another, joined in the meeting, until its number was swelled to more than three thousand; and the best of all was, that besides all the good done in other regiments, their own was entirely changed, nearly all hopefully converted to God.

Such was the soldier's story to the delegates, and of course they went forward to Camp Nelson with hearts beating high with hopeful purpose.

In the hospitals they met disease in its worst forms, in some cases, but did not shrink from it. In the encampment of teamsters and elsewhere, vice was encountered in fulness of freedom from all religious restraints, but they were not repelled. Everywhere they found amongst the thousands peopling this grand military centre, no other public notice of God than that of the profanation of his glorious name. They, however, set up their banners, and opened out their roll for the names of recruits.

Their banners and their roll were honored of both God and the soldiers.

Of course a world of work awaited them for the bodily comfort and relief of the men in the camp; in all of which they were hailed as messengers from home, and welcomed as brothers and fathers, sent with cheer of the heart and cheer of the hand.

O who can tell, except those who have felt it or seen it, how much there is in the simplest gift from home, given with home words of kindness, to the long-absent soldier! A gift so small, for example, as a "comfort-bag." As he takes it up in his hand, turns it around, opens it, examines its contents, O how his face reveals what is passing in his heart! The buttons, thread, needles and pins, the scissors and comb, everything, in short, in it, and most of all the kind, sisterly note, warm from the heart of purity and prayer, bathed with influence from home and from heaven, give it a power to move him, and soften and open his heart, scarcely conceivable of a thing so small!

Greatly they and the soldiers rejoiced in all that was done for the wounded and sick.

All this, here, as it does elsewhere and everywhere, opened the way for the Gospel, and here it was, in proclaiming the glad tidings, by the cot-side, in the tents, hospitals and camps, that the delegates found their most arduous, abundant and joyous work. One of them alone records *seventy-three* meetings in two months, besides all the personal conversations and interviews with groups here and there, and the distribution of thousands of Testaments, books, papers and tracts, as his portion of the work in Camp Nelson, and this may be taken as a fair illustration, not in excess, of all others.

Many pages of incidents might be given, showing by specimens the warm welcome, the eager interest manifested, and the vast good they accomplished, under the blessing of God; but these must be left untold, and the results also, until they shall all be unfolded in the fulness of the train of blessed things, sure to follow them in the army and amongst the people at home, and sure to be gathered in the garner above.

#### At Glasgow, Kentucky,

A station was established, and a work not unlike that at Camp Nelson was done by another band of delegates.

#### Camp Denison, Ohio.

This is one of the great board barrack establishments called into existence by the war. It is situated a few miles only from Cincinnati, near the railway, towards the State capital. It has comfortable winter accommodations for twenty thousand soldiers, or more, and has been at times overfilled. At other times it has been used as a camp for convalescents, and a hospital for the wounded and sick. The hospital had seventy-one wards, and the inmates numbered sixteen hundred, perhaps.

Imagine, then, long rows of one-story board barracks stretching along say half a mile, parallel to the railway, with a broad space, a splendid parade-ground, intervening; an extempore one-story pine city, regularly laid out, neatly whitewashed, with flower-beds fronting each barrack, streets paved, and all its municipal arrangements in military perfection.

The chapel, with its history, services, and influence, is the feature most interesting, perhaps, of all in Camp Denison, in connection with the work of the Christian Commission. This, however, belongs rather to the local work of the Cincinnati branch, in whose report it will be found. Yet, in passing, it must be said that the history of its erection illustrates the noble and generous character of the gallant commander of the department even more than the zeal and devotion of the Christian Commission. Here, besides all that has been done by the chairman, secretary, and others connected with the Cincinnati branch of the Commission, delegates have, from time to time, found most interesting work.

When the army of the department was consolidated, and pushed forward to Cumberland Gap, with the indomitable purpose of delivering East Tennessee, and planting there once again the old flag as the rallying point of the loyal, and the protection of the persecuted and oppressed, a field agent was appointed, and every arrangement made for a permanent, separate organization and the prosecution of the work upon a scale worthy of the gallant army and of the loyal, suffering, destitute East Tennesseans. Of course, the long line of wagon transportation from Lexington, Kentucky, to Knoxville, Tennessee, over the lofty, intervening Cumberland Mountains, could not but embarrass and retard the work. Nevertheless, with a spirit as indomitable as that of the army and its commander, the field agent pushed on, and pushed forward the supplies for his work, until, reaching Knoxville, he established the headquarters of his field within hail of the headquarters of the army, unfurled the banner of the Commission under the folds of the national flag, opened a station with all its appliances for bodily relief and religious benefit to the soldiers, and set earnestly about his work.

Leaving the details and first fruits of this work to a future report, it is requisite now to add only this, that the field agent has been joined by a band of able and earnest men, who love the soldiers, and have large hearts and strong hands wherewithal to do them good, and that the situation is rapidly changing, with

promise of an open railway line of travel and transportation through Nashville and Chattanooga.

Whilst, therefore, there is much, very much, in the work of the year now closed to rejoice the heart, the prospect opening before the Commission for the year upon which we now enter is the cheering one that far greater work and far greater joy awaits us; and surely, if the whole earth were searched over for the purpose, not another body of men could be found in the world whose relief and benefit should be more eagerly or joyously sought than the newly delivered, newly enlisted soldiers of East Tennessee, and the gallant men who delivered them.

So closes the year in the Army of the Ohio.

It commenced under embarrassments, but it closes with an open door. God grant that the door may not again be shut until it is done by the benign hand of peace.

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The following special order from the distinguished officer until recently in command of the department, is not the one referred to in the report; but in the absence of that may serve in its place to illustrate his good-will to the Commission.

### Special Order of Major-General Burnside.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,  
CINCINNATI, OHIO, August 14, 1863.

#### *Special Orders No. 310.*

The delegates of the Christian Commission will be passed through all the hospitals and convalescent camps in this department, upon passes signed by A. E. Chamberlain, President of the Commission.

By order of Major-General BURNSIDE.

W. P. ANDERSON,  
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Pass — — —, delegate United States Christian Commission, in accordance with above order.

— — —,  
President Cincinnati Com. U. S. Christian Commission.

## WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

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THE first campaign for the capture of Vicksburg ended in the repulse of our troops, and their withdrawal to Milliken's Bend, on the very last days of the year 1862. The second campaign was crowned with perfect and glorious success on the 4th of July, 1863, the event and the day each conferring additional lustre upon the other. The intervening half year was filled up, the first four months in various movements preparatory to the final blow, and the last two in the most brilliant campaign of the war itself. During all this time, the army, both while preparing to strike the blow which should reduce the stronghold of rebellion, break the blockade of the great artery of Western commerce, and sever in two the Confederacy, and while fighting the preliminary battles, and pressing the siege, was in condition most favorable for the various work of the Christian Commission.

The delegate force of the Commission has never been large in this army. It ought, indeed, to be greatly increased. The Western branches, however, are now fully alive to the importance of this, and well able to do it. What the corps of delegates lacked in numbers, however, it made up in efficiency. The Peoria branch of the Commission sent, besides others, its own chief officer, the President of the Young Men's Christian Association, accompanied by an able minister of the Gospel of that city. The St. Louis branch sent its secretary, who became so deeply enlisted in the field-work as to abandon the secretaryship, and remain as the permanent field agent. The Cincinnati branch despatched also its first secretary, with others, full of Welsh fire, better for its purpose than the Greek.

They all, with their various associates, went in separate parties, under the old first plan for the delegate work, taking with them their own supplies for distribution, and each company working at its own discretion as to time and place, without any permanent depots of supply in the field from which to replenish

their stock, or any permanent agency to assign them to places of work, or prepare the way for them, and instruct them how to proceed.

All the way down to the "Army before Vicksburg" they went, stopping from place to place as they went, to visit all the soldiers, well, or sick, or wounded, and do what they could in relief of physical suffering, in cheering them for duty, and in winning them to Jesus. Out into the country they went, wherever within reach there were forces encamped; and besides their public addresses, personal conversations, and various work to give bodily relief, they distributed everywhere Testaments, books, papers, and tracts, until the large supplies taken were entirely exhausted.

Neither phonographic reporters nor photograph artists accompanied them, to preserve for us the scenes or the utterances of their eventful journeyings. If it had been so, we should have had a rare volume of delegate work, illustrated by strange and wonderful pictures of religious, military, river, and camp life. They journeyed on transports, and mingled with soldiers and civilians on the way. Theirs is the Christian philosopher's stone, which turns everything it touches into golden opportunities. To the delegates from Cincinnati, each transport, hospital, camp, and post became an Areopagus for the proclamation of an unknown or neglected God, not forgetting Jesus and the resurrection, with the earnest eloquence that never fails to impart something of its own Welsh fire to every one who hears it. To the delegates from Peoria and St. Louis, each transport, hospital, camp, and post became a Fulton Street prayer-meeting, both for kindling sacred fire in the hearts of others, and for calling it forth to make it spread still farther; and to each and to all, every soldier and every man they met was a man—a mortal, yet immortal *man*—to be saved or lost forever, a brother beloved, for whose salvation no cost could be too dear, no effort too great.

Thus have the Western branches of the Commission followed the Army of the Tennessee through all its marchings, campaigns, and battles in the Mississippi Valley. From the battle-field of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, to the surrender of Vicksburg, its delegates have been on every field, participating in all the dangers, and sharing many of the hardships of the army, all the time sowing broadcast the word of life, and pointing the vigorous,

as well as the sick, the wounded, and dying, to the blessed Saviour, while they have distributed thousands upon thousands of Testaments, suitable books, tracts, and papers to the soldiers. Many of these delegates stood at their posts until, weary and exhausted, they sank down stricken by disease; and some have already entered on the enjoyment of their reward.

The amount of good that has been accomplished is only fully known by the souls who have experienced it, and by Him, without whose knowledge not a sparrow falls to the ground. When the great day of reckoning comes, no doubt among the vast host who shall shine as the stars forever and ever, having turned many to righteousness, will be found those who labored so earnestly in this part of the Master's vineyard.

In June, the field agent of the Army of the Cumberland was detached and sent down to the Army before Vicksburg to organize there upon the plan of permanent local and field agencies, and although over-fatigue in an unfriendly climate threatened him with utter prostration, and obliged his return before the object of his visit was fully accomplished, the way was all prepared, and about the time the national army entered Vicksburg in triumph, an agent was there, a church was procured, and a station opened, with all its appliances of library, reading-room, writing-table, and supplies for distribution, and arrangements for delegate work.

In July, the former secretary of the St. Louis branch was appointed field agent of the Department of the Tennessee, and immediately established his headquarters at Memphis, procured a spacious store-room in the Gayoso Block, and opened there a central depot.

These two stations, Memphis and Vicksburg, have been the principal centres of distribution and of delegate work for the department.

At Little Rock, more recently, a third station has been opened, as a centre for the work in Arkansas.

The following addresses, delivered by the field agent and Colonel R. M. Moore, of the 117th Illinois Regiment, though relating exclusively to Memphis, will convey a comprehensive and vivid idea of the work at each of its centres.



There is one fact alluded to in these addresses that should be explained. It is that of the solution of the difficulty of obtaining or rather of retaining the commodious wareroom occupied by the Commission in Memphis.

This wareroom belonged to one who perhaps was away from Memphis at the time the city was surrendered. It was taken by the authorities, and given to the Commission for use. The owner, however—if absent—returned, took the oath of allegiance, reclaimed his property, and demanded a rent of fifty dollars or more a month. The agent was at his wit's end. He first laid his case before God, then took it to General Hurlbut.

The trouble the agent had in trying to find another suitable room he himself has given in his address, and the noble and generous solution of the difficulty by General Hurlbut, who himself pledged and regularly pays the rent, is given by Colonel Moore.

#### ADDRESS AND REPORT OF MR. E. A. BURNELL.

Six months ago this day, in Christ's name and that of the Christian Commission, we took possession of these rooms. It was the third day of diligent effort, in seeking a home for an enterprise that we believed would be a blessing to the soldiers, to the city, and exert a wide and widening reflex home influence. On turning the key upon a room as uninviting and filthy as could be well imagined, the first thing was to kneel down and consecrate it, and all that was to grow out of it, to God. The individual prayer was the inauguration of the daily prayer-meeting, which we are devoutly grateful to God to say has been continued every day since, and, by divine grace, will be while we have any connection with or influence over this instrumentality of honoring God. On this half-yearly anniversary, it is due to you, to the Commission and the friends at home, that we detail somewhat of the wonderful dealing of God in leading us so faithfully, so tenderly, and in Him, through Him, and to Him shall be all the glory. The condition of the rooms was such that it was ten days before we had the shelves, counters, and all complete, although the second day we had boxes opened, and our work of supplying the soldiers with "leaves for the healing of the nations" went on from that time. An inci-

dent of one day of the prayer-meeting with two colored white-washers will illustrate. One of them had told me that he loved God, and I was waiting for the heart's condition of the second to appear, when I said to them, "We have a daily prayer-meeting, and wish you to unite." The second brother said, "I dun know much bout dat ar; but I likes to be wid um who does pray." The simple and hearty union with us, who had made an agreement with Israel's God to maintain a daily service, was truly most touching, most gratifying. The difficulties that we have met in the progress of this meeting have been neither few nor small; but an always-faithful Master has enabled us to meet them,—yes, and overcome them in a way that makes us very grateful to Him. Our very distinct impressions are, that the difficulties in sustaining a daily service are seldom, if ever, larger than in this instance. Hoping that it may be suggestive, and so the dear Saviour's name honored, we must dwell briefly upon this point.

The sustaining of the daily service was a *fixed fact* in the outset—a determination. The announcement was distinctly and clearly made, and oft and oft again repeated, publicly and privately, that thirty minutes each afternoon would be devoted to prayer. Our sign was hung across the street, and every passer-by understood it. The modest little finger-board at the door, with its index hand pointing to the rear, said, "Daily Prayer-meeting, 4 P. M. For thirty minutes we stop to commune with God." One poor sinner, whom Jesus loves, said to one of our workers, "When I read that little finger-board, 'For thirty minutes we stop to commune with God,' I said to myself, 'I wonder how they do it?'" Hundreds have had similar feelings awakened in their souls by the reading of our signs, and a boundless future will only reveal the amount of good done even by this little instrumentality. The effect of the statement that there would be no failure, under any circumstances, has been so unmistakable, and was so before many weeks had passed, that we take a real joy in thanking God and taking courage. One soldier said, "It does us a positive good in camp to know that there is one place where every day we can meet with those who feel the importance of daily worship." One thanked God in the prayer-meeting that they could come away from the unhappy

atmosphere of the camp and barracks, and mingle in this atmosphere of worship and heaven. One, in brief remarks, has recently said, "I was so instructed yesterday on going from these rooms to our barracks. I went away with 'my peace like a river; yea, it passed all understanding.'"

The brother gave a vivid look to the contrast between the aims and surroundings of this room and the condition of their camps.

We have, in repeated instances, and for successive days, had mechanical operations going forward, as you all know, in the way of a partition, shelves, &c.; but in no instance has the daily service been omitted. This union of working and praying has been always suggestive, instructive, and pleasing. Last Saturday, between eight A. M. and five P. M., with the glad assistance of a half dozen or more interested soldiers, we made seats to accommodate one hundred and twenty-five more in the rooms. Fifteen dollars was saved to Christ and the Commission, and the interest of the soldiers intensified. The happiness of the short remarks and the pleadings with God for special objects, is daily exemplified. The requests in writing laid upon the table, are often beautiful in their mechanical execution, touching in their Christian heartiness, and comprehensive in word and meaning. The singing-school in the morning adds much to the interest. The frequent extemporized seasons of singing remind us of the seasons of family song at home. No one questions the subduing and ennobling influence of music in all the home relations. Who, then, we beg to be informed, will not do all in their power to have every war-worn soldier come under its elevating influence? Our Sabbath service is exerting a wide influence. Sometimes over two hundred gather to pass what all seem to regard as the most happy hour of the week. The addresses and sermons presented on the Sabbath, we have aimed to make practical and faithful,—such themes as Christian usefulness, personal effort, and the effort for the army. Naturalness in religious things and others of kindred character, have been dwelt upon. I do not remember a Sabbath or scarcely a week-day service in which some one has not, and often several, have lingered to talk personally about their condition as Christians or as sinners. A volume, and not small,

might be prepared of incidents of this kind. I have space but for one. My esteemed co-laborer; Rev. F. G. Ensign, and self, left the rooms at the close of an evening meeting. It was beautiful moonlight; about half past nine. We had turned the first corner, and a soldier left the opposite walk and stepped into the mud of the street as though it was unobserved. Coming up, I recognized by the hanging head a hero in heart-conflict. It is not being under fire; it is not the rain of shot and shell, of canister and grape; not the bringing to bear of Parrotts or Dahlgrens,

"For it's always worse to think of  
Than to hear the cannon boom,"

but it is when God, by the enginery of his Spirit, says, "You want my guidance."

"I see you are in trouble, brother soldier."

"Yes," his sobs choking his utterance.

"What can I do for you?" said I, throwing my arm over his shoulder.

His reply was his casting his arm around my waist, and sobbing like a child, while we walked a half block by the pale moon's light in silence, save the deep heart-sobs of the Union veteran.

The strong throbbings of his heart moved my soul, every pulsation of which I felt, as though there was no need of my own beating.

"Tell me," said I, "what is your trouble?"

In broken English (he is German) he said:

"I's so tempted, brudder, so tempted I can't stand it."

"What is your temptation? Tell us. You know we love you."

"Yes, dat I knows. Dat's why I waits to tell you. My comrade asks me to go theatre, ask me drink, ask me play card, ask me go de way of her who steps on hell, and whose house be dead. O I so tempted, brudders."

Said I, "Have you been to the theatre?"

"No, but my comrade go, and I so tempted."

"Have you drank?"

"Well, de General (he is on detached duty at headquarters), treats us boys with wine, and I takes a little wid the rest."

"Had you not better refuse?"

"I know dat now. Dis meeting to-night settle dat."

We stood at the corner of the street, the bright moon shining upon us three, so peacefully, so cheerfully. The German brother (he evidently is a Christian, and was for years before entering the service) said, "O dose rooms, dose meetings, dat meeting to-night!" In silence we stood by the lamp-post at the street corner, he breaking it by saying, "Dat meeting to-night keeps me. I make resolutions, and I know you prays for me."

We took off our hats, and then and there, leaning upon each other's shoulders, we looked up to Him who was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin. The season was precious, the communions intimate, and our German brother enabled to feel that He who was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin, was willing to succor him. My brother soldiers, brother officers, and friends, the Brother of brothers gave me of temptation's power a new view, and a deeper, closer, more determined, and constant longing after equipment and qualifications to do the Master's work.

We must say a word to you about the close personal interviews that we try to make common, as well as winning. Within a few hours, a colonel, youthful (not twenty-four), pure-faced, and unassuming, stood quietly reading at our inclined table. His modesty won my heart at once. Ten minutes made us friends for all of life. He told me that he was not a Christian, and why not, with as much honesty and faithful simplicity as one of my motherless boys would tell of his soul working. His history, how interesting! The second man in that noble State of Iowa to enlist, and within the journeying of two suns after the Sumter bombardment, he entered the three months' service as a private, and was soon made orderly sergeant. After the three months he recruited a company, and wore two bars. In May last the gold leaf was donned, in September the silver, and he has acted the spread eagle since. Soon, evidently, it will be so formally. He bears his honors so meekly. To love such a man is natural. I do not need to ask how men feel towards such a commander. I give these incidents as representative, as I have no time to enlarge.

We have had faith for years in woman's work and mission, and will tell you that we are trying practically to illustrate that

her gentle hand, winning way, and look of love and sisterly tenderness, is not a small part of these rooms' attractions. A youthful soldier well remarked, a few days since, "I can see how men can leave their homes, and come down in the army, and eat hardtack, and sleep on the ground; but when cultivated, Christian women leave aged parents all alone for our sakes, I think it time that we mend our ways."

I now hand you our report for the six months; and while the summing up is blessed, it is really but a small part of what has been done.

We have distributed and supplied to regiments at the different posts, the Sixteenth Army Corps, and to the branch office at Little Rock, Arkansas, 98,910 papers, 28,524 Testaments, 29,014 soldiers' books, 132,489 pages of tracts, 2114 bound volumes, and 7556 soldiers' hymn-books. We have held at the rooms one hundred and fifty-six prayer-meetings and twenty-eight preaching services. Out of the rooms we have held about seventy services, preaching and prayer. The hospitals in the city have been liberally supplied with reading. The Washington, Jackson, Union, Webster, Overton, and Adams hospitals were furnished with libraries of choice books when the rooms were first opened. Since then the Gayoso Hospital has been supplied with a library of such books as we have had. The Irving Block has been liberally supplied with Testaments and papers, and grants of paper have frequently been made to those of our soldiers so unfortunate as to be found in that prison. Our rooms have been visited—estimating the number daily at 120, which, I think, it will average—by 18,400 soldiers. The average attendance at the prayer-meetings is as follows: July, commencing the 18th, 10; August, 15; September, 20; October, 25; November, 12; December, 28; January, to this date, 50; making the general average for the whole time 25.

While this number may appear very small, it must be remembered that the troops have been moving. Often has the number increased to forty, and then immediately decreased to five. The men were sent away, either discharged from hospitals, or their regiments ordered to move. It is but due to the Commission, and justice to my excellent co-laborer, Rev. F. G. Ensign, that I speak of my own absence from here of more than one-half of

the six months, in work elsewhere. The first nine weeks were very laborious. From July 16th to the 11th of September there is but One that knows, or ever will know, what it was. An absence of three or four weeks, to hold a series of Christian Commission meetings in Illinois, was deemed best. When, in that great State, the groans of the dying from Chattanooga called so loudly that the Chicago committee thought best for me to go there for a few weeks—not quite six weeks—as delegate of the Commission, under the direction of Rev. E. P. Smith, field agent for the Department of the Cumberland, and with such reverend Christian gentlemen as co-laborers as Messrs. Hawes of Maine, Butterfield of New Hampshire, and High of Massachusetts, I need not say I had rich experience. Four weeks were profitably expended, on returning, in holding Christian Commission meetings, in introducing daily services where not formed, and aiding and assisting in those already working nobly: Four days and a Sabbath were passed at each, Nashville, Louisville, and Indianapolis, Thanksgiving in Chicago, three days and a Sabbath in Milwaukee, a Sabbath and six services at Madison, Wisconsin, two Sabbaths and eight days in St. Louis, with two precious meetings on the Mary E. Forsyth, arriving here Christmas day. The forty-one days at Chattanooga gave me time and the strength to hold over two hundred and forty hospital, ward, tent, squad, and other meetings, and write three hundred and eighty-eight letters. The close, hearty, personal interviews, that are really the central idea of all our work, plan, and prayers, are numbered only by Him who keeps faithful record. I saw enough of my co-laborer before leaving, in September, to feel a pleasant satisfaction in intrusting the work to him. The general love for him and the cause is but proof that I was not mistaken. Since our opening we have averaged three laborers; since Christmas we have had seven. They will soon be again reduced, although we hope to average six in the future. All will be glad to know that a Young Men's Christian Association has been formed in this city, under favorable auspices, and the Christian Commission, with the largest heart, opens its rooms to their meetings, and will do anything and everything consistent to further its interests. Do I need, on this delightful anniversary, to invite the Christian people of

this city (one might almost deem it important), when I mention that during the six months we have had one prayer from one citizen of this city of thirty odd thousand people. You will now listen to Mr. Ensign, and our loved brother in Christ, Colonel R. M. Moore, 117th Illinois, who knows what the Commission is and has done.

ADDRESS OF COLONEL R. M. MOORE, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH ILLINOIS

MY DEAR FRIENDS—for such I esteem all here this afternoon—it is a pleasure to speak of so noble a cause as the Christian Commission, and my only regret is that one more capable of holding it up in its true light before you had not been selected for this occasion, its semi-annual anniversary. Six months ago to-day, Mr. Burnell opened this room and hung out in front of the door there that modest sign, with its modest but earnest appeal, so much in keeping with the Gospel; and the Christian Commission became a living institution here. What it has been since, many of you know who are present here to-day, and many who are not here. To you and to them it has been a sweet place of refuge when camp-weary and soul-hungry. Not soon will it be forgotten by any who have enjoyed its life-sweetening power. As you go hence in the discharge of duty, this power will go with you, nor will it forsake you, as you trudge your weary way through deep mud and drenching rain. It will then be, we trust, meat to make you cheerful and strong, which your ungodly comrade will know not of. Hard, indeed, is the soldier's lot, and much he needs to cheer him. One left a flower-clad cottage far away to the North on a beautiful prairie, or in a lovely dale, or on the margin of a silvery lake, nearly three years ago, and said to her whom his heart held dearest, keep the altar fires of our little family aglow while I go and defend them. And while she kept vigils at that lonely home, he did noble battle for his country at Donelson or Shiloh. None knew of his heart-throbs as he lay in the trenches by night, and thought of her whose heart-throbs were equal to his. And, perhaps, after many months' weary watchings, weepings, and longings, his angel-one went up to watch from the window of heaven; and, though there were none so rude as to chide the sorrowings of the bereaved soldier, yet, as he felt an aching void within, he



longed for a sweeter place than the cheerless camp, and more soothing words than those of his heedless brother-soldiers. Need I tell you that here, or in a place like this, he finds that sweeter place, and hears those words of sympathy that are more to him than the balm of Gilead to his bleeding heart. The history of this one is the history of many thousands since this cruel war began. The history of another is that of the tender son of a tender mother. He, like his fellow, did his duty nobly on the field of death; but often has he felt a longing for the soothing words of his tender mother, the kind counsel of his loving father, and the healing sympathy of a gentle sister. How cheering to such a son is a place like this! There are more than twenty thousand such sons in our armies to-day. Had I time, I might tell you of others like these, who stood firm where the bravest might falter, but felt a longing for some one to come, like Good Samaritans, when the carnage ended, to assist them in burying their loved comrades and caring for the dying. There is another class of young men who have obeyed their country's call. It is that class that was careless and reckless at home; but hardships, exposure, and the scenes of death, have rendered them more thoughtful, and they have felt that, if there were those with them to take them by the hand and say, "Brother, won't you do better?" they would have said "Yes" gladly.

Well, now, for just such as these was the Christian Commission inaugurated; just for these it has sent such brothers as these, Messrs. Burnell and Ensign, and such sisters as these, Mrs. Northrup and Misses Burnell and Ingalls, with willing hands to work, and with hearts to sympathize with you all. And this is but a branch of the great institution which the noble people at home have launched, as so many life-boats, to save the drowning. You may not know with what patience, labors, prayers, and anxiety Mr. Burnell launched this one; but I do, and I trust he will pardon me while I allude to it. In the first place, it is no easy task to procure a room like this without cost to the Commission, which is worth a thousand dollars a year in a place where rooms are so scarce and rents so high. Then, too, there are many in authority who care for none of these things. To many of these he applied, and was more astonished at the little sympathy they felt in the cause than in his fail-

ure. But nothing daunted, he continued to pray, hope, and work; and such was his zeal, that he took the case to Major-General Hurlbut, and so favorable was the impression made on his mind, that he said Mr. Burnell should have this room, if he, General Hurlbut, had to pay the rent from his own pocket. And sure enough, in a few days a draft for the first month's rent was furnished, and, more than that, it has been promptly furnished ever since. All honor to General Hurlbut for so noble an act. The nation has honored him for his valor at Shiloh and his deeds of heroism on the Hatchie; but this act, when known, as it will be, will be remembered like the widow's mite.

This Christian Commission room is a proud monument to the nobleness of heart of our Major-General commanding. The securing the room was not all the labor Mr. Burnell and his worthy colaborer, Mr. Ensign, have done. Look around on these benches, tables, and shelves. They were rough boards when they secured them; but, with aid from some soldiers and their own hands, they are as you see them. All this has been the work of six months, while the daily meetings have kept up and the distribution of a vast amount of reading matter to those soldiers who have daily thronged this room. None but Him who keeps a record above can tell the good that has already been accomplished. Then, too, think of the whole Christian Commission, from East to West, with its ministering servants following our armies as gleaners, the reapers, to bind up and to save. It, as well as the Sanitary Commission, is American. They do honor to the hearts of our people; and when the nation shall have triumphed over treason, as it will, and when it shall have gathered all its laurels, they will be the brightest of them all. The banner of the Christian Commission is simply the banner of our country, sanctified to God. This is a gift from that loyal firm in St. Louis, Ticknor & Company. Wherever our army has gone in the West, it has established a branch of their firm and flung out that proud banner. Had all business men been as true to their colors as they have been, we had had no war. Some of you, my fellow-soldiers, have followed our proud emblem to victory; I have not yet done so, but hope to. I would ask no prouder meed of praise than to have it said of me that, in defending my flag, I remembered my God. And this, my fellow-

soldiers, I want you to do. Look at that beautiful banner, and consider its sacred emblems. Let your love to God and your country be as loyal as its red; let your characters be as pure as its white, and let your fidelity be as true as its blue, and let your determination to put down the rebellion be as permanent as its stars. While defending it, we should ever remember such noble-hearted friends as these. Our nation should honor and remember them. But I assure you, though the nation should forget them, there is One who will not forget them when He comes to gather up earth's jewels. And now, as I do not wish to occupy more of your time, let me but add: Brothers, sisters, go on; brother soldiers, never, never falter in your duty to that sacred flag, and never, never forget God.

Two facts remain to be mentioned. Thursday, August 6th, was designated by the President as a day of national thanksgiving for the glorious victories which so wonderfully signalized the 4th of July, 1863. Poor indeed was the condition of the population of Memphis to add anything to the grand cloud of incense rising from the glad hearts of a grateful nation! Nevertheless thanksgiving was kept in Memphis. The rooms of the Commission were thrown open. The ladies prepared a sumptuous dinner. A table, more than 100 feet long, was loaded with good things, and surrounded by loyal guests. Gen. J. D. Webster presided. When ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Gen. Webster was called out by a toast. Other toasts and speeches followed in the train, and thus the favor of God to our imperilled country was not left without glad recognition even in Memphis.

Later in August, nearly at its close, the hero of Vicksburg paid a visit to Memphis. The opportunity was seized upon to give him an ovation. At the dinner given him, amongst the regular toasts was the following:

"The United States Christian Commission, with its volunteer labor and unpaid agency. We recognize it as strength to the loyal and dismay to traitors."

This toast, with the happy response of Mr. Burnell, formed one of the significant features of that festive occasion, as well as one of the many marks of the high appreciation of the Christian Commission in the Army.

## WORK AMONGST THE REBEL PRISONERS OF FORT DELAWARE.

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THE general principle which has actuated the delegates of the Christian Commission on the battle-field has been that of binding up the wounds of the fallen, friend and foe alike, pouring in the oil and wine, taking them up and placing them in comfortable quarters, at whatever cost of labor, supplies, or money. This was abundantly illustrated at Gettysburg, where some thousands of the foe, wounded, side by side with our own, came into our hands to be cared for, and on many other fields. Supplies of hospital stores for the sick, and of religious reading matter for all of the thousands at Fort Delaware, have been sent to them from time to time, as their necessities required.

Delegates, too, have gone to aid the chaplains in their arduous work, most of them for a few days only at a time, but some of them for periods of considerable length; one for the full term of six weeks. The first delegate sent to the fort to remain was one who was extremely desirous of some arrangement by which he could reside, as long as occasion should require, among the Union prisoners at Richmond. This not being practicable, he willingly accepted the proposition to take up his abode for the time amongst the rebel prisoners at Fort Delaware.

Some of the delegates devoted themselves to the sick, of whom there were at times about six hundred in the hospitals; others to the well in the barracks, averaging not far from nine thousand; others both ministered to the sick, and preached to the well.

The Chairman of the Commission, who visited the fort with Mr. Grant, was intensely interested, and deeply impressed, both by the vast congregation assembled to hear the addresses of their

visitors upon the eternal interests of their souls, and by the eagerness manifested in the sea of upturned faces. Professor Stoever of Gettysburg, Rev. Mr. Parvin, Rev. Dr. Brainerd, and others, of Philadelphia, were similarly impressed; and left also their impress for good upon the hearts of the thousands who heard them.

The reception given to the delegates generally has been frank, cordial, and hearty, the desire for religious instruction very remarkable, and the value placed upon the reading matter generally, especially upon tracts, which could be sent home, or kept to carry with them when they should return, very striking.

One of the delegates returned states in his report that he has never seen a single defaced, mutilated, or neglected tract there in all his rounds, and that he has been often greeted by expressions like this, as he has handed tracts to one and another: "This makes the — tract I have received. I keep them all after I have read them to take them home;" or, "My wife must read this, too. I shall keep it and give it to her when I get home again."

He states, also, that whilst he was distributing tracts and Testaments from the basket on his arm, crowds gathering around him would call on him for an address, saying, "Now give us a talk," to which he always responded at once, and that they always gave him attentive, impressive audience, and never interrupted him by a single disrespectful remark or exclamation.

There are two chaplains at the fort. The following letter is from the one having the prisoners more especially as his parishoners.

LETTER FROM REV. WM. H. PADDOCK, CHAPLAIN UNITED  
STATES ARMY, FORT DELAWARE.

HON. GEORGE H. STUART,

President United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: On the commencement of a new year it is natural to review the work of the year, and therefore I readily respond to your request. When ordered here from Philadelphia, in June

last, I found a great field of labor ; but after the battle of Gettysburg, as one of the Christian Commission wrote me, mine was "the largest parish in America." Our island of seventy-five acres was then, and for months afterwards, more thickly populated than any of our cities. The prisoners alone numbered eleven thousand. This "mass of humanity," as truly named by the Rev. Dr. Brainerd, was poured in upon us all at once, in the heats of summer, before the Government could properly prepare for their reception. Full of the bruise of battle, thousands of them completely broken in spirit and constitution, unwilling and unable, for the most part, to take daily exercise, what wonder is it that our temporary hospital was soon crowded to overflowing. At great expense, working night and day, the Government erected a spacious hospital. It has eight hundred beds, and is as completely and comfortably arranged as any of our hospitals in Philadelphia ; but even this, for a time, was too small by two hundred beds. In the midst of all this sickness, which has laid in death, on the opposite shore of Jersey, more than one thousand of the poor prisoners, your Commission has given me aid which could not be dispensed with, aid from week to week, by tracts, books, stationery, medicines, stimulants, and clothing, aid especially grateful to me in my overcrowded work by the personal help of distinguished clergymen and laymen of the different denominations, who for Christ's sake remembered the sick and in prison. The Revs. Holman of Connecticut, Gaston of Ohio, Merrill of Maine, and Messrs. Parker and R. Pearsall Smith of Philadelphia, were among the earlier and efficient co-workers. The Rev. T. T. Bradford of Pennsylvania, for six weeks labored most earnestly and acceptably. Occasional Sunday services were gladly received from the Rev. Messrs. Dickinson of Delaware, Jonathan and A. B. Cross of Maryland, Parvin and Mears of Philadelphia, Morton and Dr. Hall of New York, and Dr. Baird of New Jersey, while the visits of the Rev. Dr. Brainerd, and of the President of the Christian Commission, will not soon be forgotten.

The labors of these co-workers from the Commission terminated with the beginning of cold weather ; but the services of my associate, the Rev. E. J. Way, of the Rev. Dr. Handy, poli-

tical prisoner, and of J. Calhoun Russell, Confederate chaplain, have been successfully continued all along to this time, and have been besides of the greatest value as illustrative of Christian Union, though often differing in a worldly point of view.

The Day of Judgment alone will reveal the worth of the great missionary work of the Christian Commission here. That it disarms our enemies more than the weapons of our national warfare we daily hear; and it was the first fruits of a good work yet going on, the present value of which is perhaps threescore souls dedicated to the cause of Christ.

In connection with an account of the relief of Union prisoners in Richmond will be given a testimonial from about fifty officers on Johnson's Island of the kind treatment received by them and their fellow-sufferers at Gettysburg.

The following is from a few privates, who seem to have been constrained to write it by their own generous impulses of gratitude. It was written with a pencil, the paper evidently resting upon a blanket or some other soft surface, as the letters were all deeply indented. The date, too, is significant: written first "Wounded camp," &c.; then the word wounded crossed out, and "Hospital" interlined in its stead.

HOSPITAL CAMP, NEAR GETTYSBURG, PA.,

July 11, 1863.

We, the undersigned, prisoners of war, desiring to express our gratitude for the kindness and attention shown to us by the gentlemanly delegates of the Christian Commission, the Christian spirit with which they have at all times visited our bed of pain, and the delicate and ready hand which they have always extended to our relief, prompts us to heartfelt thanks. Particularly would we address our thanks to delegate James Crawford, he having had more immediate charge of our little circle. Although we will stand ever ready to contend against their hosts, as our foemen, in the field, and defy their assaults upon our dear country and her institutions, yet we can only remember the

treatment of these Christians towards us, their wounded foe, with hearts of gratitude, and do hereunto affix our names.

Private JAMES R. WOOD,  
Company C, Second Georgia Battery.

Private W. P. CARLOSS,  
Company C, Second Georgia Battery.

C. A. RIDOUT,  
Company D, Eleventh Mississippi Regiment.

JOHN B. SMINT,  
Company A, Forty-eighth Georgia Regiment.

Others would have added their names, but being taken away, we can only say their thanks are with ours.

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## RELIEF OF UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

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INSTANTLY upon the reception of intelligence from Chattanooga that Rev. John Hussey had been taken, on the 20th of September, and probably carried captive from the Chickamauga to Richmond, inquiry by letter was made of the Richmond authorities whether he had arrived there, and the answer returned that there was "no such man in any of the prisons in and around Richmond." The same mail, however, brought a letter, dated "Castle Thunder," from Mr. Hussey himself, asking the Commission to send him food and clothing to relieve him from hunger and cold, and to secure, if possible, his early release from the loathsome "castle."

A letter was written to Jay Cooke, Esq., then at Sandusky, Ohio, to procure a testimonial from such of the thousands who had been benefited at Gettysburg by delegates of the Commission, as might be found on Johnson's Island, to send forward to



Richmond for the purpose of influencing the release of Mr. Hussey. Mr. Cooke promptly returned the following :

DEPOT FOR PRISONERS,  
JOHNSON'S ISLAND, NEAR SANDUSKY, OHIO,  
October 31, 1863.

The undersigned, prisoners of war at Johnson's Island, do hereby certify that, from their personal knowledge and experience, the delegates of the United States Christian Commission, in their Christian efforts to relieve the sick and wounded of the various battle-fields, make no difference or discrimination between the contending parties, relieving alike the sufferings and wants of the Confederate and Federal men and officers, and we therefore sincerely trust, that the authorities at Richmond and elsewhere will treat any of said delegates that may fall into their hands with the kindness justly due to them, and grant them a speedy return to their Christian work.

(Signed by)

J. M. Jackson, 1st Lieut. 11th Ga.	Chas. E. Ellmore, 2d Lieut. Co. G, 57th N. C.
B. G. Brown, Capt. 7th Va. Inf.	Wm. A. Greene, 1st Lieut. Co. K, 1st Miss. Art.
P. E. Maher, Lieut. 6th Ala.	A. J. Herod, Capt. Battery B, 1st Miss. L. Art.
J. J. Dowell, Capt. 7th Tenn.	Wm. Ludlow, 1st Lieut. 39th Miss.
Z. A. Blanton, Capt. 18th Va.	J. Eastham, Lieut. 12th Va. Cav.
T. C. Powell, Adj. 47th N. C.	Albert Garrison, Lieut. 19th Va.
B. S. Spann, Lieut. 6th Ala.	J. S. Melvin, Adj. 39th Miss.
W. T. King, Lieut. 51st Ga.	S. McGarrah, Lieut. 39th Miss.
M. J. Bulger, Lieut. Co. C, 47th Ala.	Willis Randle, Lieut. 52d N. C.
M. A. Parks, Lieut. Col. 52d N. C.	L. L. Vaughan, Lieut. 18th Va.
W. L. Rowe, Capt. 6th Ala.	N. T. Liles, Lieut. 39th Miss.
T. W. Johnson, Capt. 11th Ga.	W. F. Ryan, Lieut. Co. E, 8th Ala.
Jas. R. Herbert, Lieut. Col. 1st Md.	R. S. McClung, Capt. Co. K, 15th Ark.
Wm. S. Rankin, Lieut. Col. 21st N. C.	J. E. Morgan, Capt. 13th Ark.
Jack Brown, Col. 59th Ga.	A. M. De Bardelehem, Co. B, 8th Ala.
E. P. Dismukes, Lieut. Co. F, 8th Fla.	W. H. Wiles, 23d Ark.
R. N. Gardner, Capt. Co. K, 5th Fla.	J. Edwards, Col. 42d Ala.
Geo. H. Jones, Capt. Co. B, 22d Ga.	R. T. Scott, Supt. Surgeon 4th Ala. Cav.
C. R. Rice, 2d Lieut. Co. H, 8th Ala.	W. H. Edwards, Capt. & Q. M. 49th Ala.
L. M. Purcell, 1st Lieut. Co. E, 40th Va.	T. J. Taylor, Capt. Co. K, 49th Ala.
J. F. Cross, 1st Lieut. Co. B, 5th N. C.	Geo. S. Jones, Co. B, 2d Ga. Bat.
Jas. McAfee, Capt. Co. I, 22d Ga.	

Jno. E. Weymouth, Co. E, 18th Va. John S. Ray, Lieut. Co. K, 38th N. C.  
A. Kohler, Capt. Co. G, 8th Ala. Thomas B. Jackson, Lieut. Co. C., 3d  
F. B. Miller, 2d Lieut. Co. C, 8th Ala. Va. Infantry.

Without waiting for the answer from Mr. Cooke, a letter was written to Mr. Hussey, stating that an appeal for his release would be made to the authorities in Richmond immediately, upon the ground that he was a non-combatant, a delegate of the Christian Commission, taken on the battle-field, where he was under authority ministering to the wounded; that the delegates had always ministered alike to friend and foe; that the thousands of rebel wounded at Gettysburg had been kindly cared for by them; that the Commission was doing all that could lawfully be done for those then in Fort Delaware, and that testimonials to this effect would be sent forward.

This letter, as it passed under the scrutiny of the Commissioner at Richmond, decided the release of Mr. Hussey without delay. The appeal was formally made, and the testimonials transmitted; but already, before they arrived, the released delegate was happily on his return.

Simultaneous with the letter of Mr. Hussey, came an appeal to the Commission through another channel, opening the way for the transmission of food, clothing, and medicine to the suffering captives in Libby Prison, Castle Thunder, the Tobacco Warehouses, and on Belle Island.

Immediately a box had been packed and shipped for Mr. Hussey, which was received, not by him, because he was released the day before its arrival, but by Captain Conover, of Ohio, a fellow-captive and friend; and with the box for Mr. Hussey a limited but choice shipment was made of a few boxes to Lieutenant W. F. Randolph, in Libby Prison, which was duly received and gladly distributed, as intended, amongst his fellow-prisoners. This shipment was immediately acknowledged by General Meredith at Fortress Monroe, and its safe arrival at Richmond announced by the following letter from Major John E. Mulford, Assistant Commissioner of Exchange:

OFFICE COMMISSIONER OF EXCHANGE,  
FORTRESS MONROE, VA., November 3, 1863.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,

Chairman Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that twenty-one pack-

ages, addressed "Lieutenant W. F. Randolph, Fifth United States Artillery, Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia," and one addressed "Rev. John Hussey, Castle Thunder, Richmond, Virginia," containing clothing and other comforts, forwarded by the Christian Commission, for the benefit of our suffering prisoners in the hands of the enemy, have been received and delivered by me to the authorities at Richmond, and I trust and believe they have, ere this, found their way to and made glad the hearts of many of those for whom they were intended.

Your noble association cannot find a wider or worthier field than this for its work of benevolence and charity; nor do I believe any other where so much good may be done, or so great an amount of real suffering can be alleviated as here, even at the cost of redoubled efforts and means.

Should you desire to make any further shipments, address to the party whom you wish to receive and distribute the articles, in care of Brigadier-General S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange of Prisoners, Fortress Monroe, Virginia," and forward by Adams' Express. On arrival at Fortress Monroe, such packages will be forwarded to Richmond via flag of truce.

With heartfelt thanks on behalf of the recipients of your bounty,

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN E. MULFORD,

Major and Assistant Agent for Exchange.

Thus encouraged, the Commission opened its doors to receive all that should be offered suitable for the purpose, and especially for money to purchase articles most needed and most valuable to afford the required relief and comfort to the thousands of wretched captives.

The touching and terrible statements made of the condition of the inmates of these prisons moved all hearts irresistibly, and opened the purse of the people to supply, without limit, the means of relief. The only question was, whether that which should be sent could be pushed through and actually placed in the hands of the prisoners themselves.

The arrival of three hundred and fifty men at Annapolis, on the 20th of November, in the most deplorable condition, six

having died on the way, and very many marked for the grave within a few hours or days at the farthest, served to increase sympathy and cause unbounded indignation.

The facts in the case were made public, and contributions flowed in apace. Stores were purchased, packed, and sent forward from day to day in large quantities.

The following is the shipment of one day :

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, OFFICE NO. 11 BANK STREET,  
PHILADELPHIA, NOV. 25, 1863.

Invoice of forty-four packages sent by United States Christian Commission to Union prisoners in Tobacco Warehouses, Richmond, Va., care Brigadier-General Meredith, Fortress Monroe, Va. (via flag of truce), per express, freight paid :

704 lbs. ham,	1 large and valuable box of assorted medicine from P. & W.
350 lbs. dried beef,	2 doz. French mustard,
1 bbl. dried apples,	36 qts. spiced blackberry syrup,
1 bbl. white sugar,	28 bottles currant wine,
1 chest tea,	1 box dried fruit and jelly,
1 cask butter,	1 box sundries,
1 cheese,	1 box comfort-bags, books and pamphlets,
1 bbl. family crackers,	81 lbs. beef-tea jelly,
2 bbls. soda crackers,	22 lbs. beef-tea cakes,
1 cask pickles,	12 doz. knives,
1 bbl. onions,	12 doz. forks,
2 bbls. potatoes and onions,	50 towels,
6 kegs pickled cabbage,	72 pens,
80 lbs. corn starch,	72 pen-holders,
80 lbs. farina,	1000 envelopes,
60 lbs. white soap,	2 reams note paper,
150 lbs. ground coffee,	100 Christian Times,
192 cans condensed milk,	500 Messengers,
500 Two Soldiers,	350 Apologist,
500 Peter Norse,	200 S. S. Times,
500 Aged Pensioner,	100 Zion's Herald,
500 What did the Angel wipe it out with ?	363 Nonpareil Testaments (cloth),
500 Roll Call,	500 " " (sheep),
30 Signet Ring,	50 True Story of Lucknow,
15 Pilgrim's Progress,	200 Good Soldiers,
200 Soldier's Pocket Book (German),	

150 Something for Hospital,	100 Soldier's Prayer Book,
50 Come to Jesus,	1260 Soldier's Book (Greenbacks),
6000 pp. Tracts, Soldiers' Series	6 Green Pastures,
No. 2,	6 Words of Comfort,
500 Parish Visitor,	300 Soldier's Hymn Books,
600 Good News,	200 Soldier's Pocket Book.
91 Blood of Jesus,	

From day to day despatches and letters from General Meredith and Major Mulford were received, and occasionally an acknowledgment directly from the prisons, showing that the goods shipped were faithfully delivered and distributed to the prisoners.

Efforts, though always unsuccessful, were made at different times and in various ways to obtain consent of the Richmond authorities to the residence of one or more agents of the Christian Commission in Richmond, in the prisons if not elsewhere in the city, to receive and distribute the supplies sent.

The narrow channel open was evidently clogged soon after the tide of relief from the North commenced setting in to the rebel capital, and every day seemed to clog it still further. It is charitable, and perhaps true, to say that the means of transportation from City Point, where our flag of truce boat delivered all to the flag of truce boat for transmission to Richmond, was utterly insufficient for the conveyance of all that came pouring in from the open hands of the people in the loyal States.

However that may be, at last the announcement came that nothing more would be received except packages from private persons to individual prisoners, and very reluctantly the Christian Commission ceased this most beneficent work. God grant that soon the need for it may be at an end, and our brave men, all who survive their tedious captivity, may be once more at liberty.

# REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

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## BOSTON COMMITTEE.

**Report of the Army Committee of the "Boston Young Men's Christian Association."**

**GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,**

Chairman United States Christian Commission.

The Committee, in submitting the annual report of their labor during the past year, are deeply impressed with the evidence of the manifest guidance and blessing of Providence in their humble and imperfect efforts to contribute something to the great work of the Christian Commission, through whose efficient agency such extended influence has been exerted in the spiritual welfare of the devoted patriots of our land. The Committee have not deemed it expedient to hold a public meeting to appeal for aid in Boston since the anniversary meeting in May last; but numerous meetings have been held throughout this state and the adjoining states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, under the immediate agency and especial direction of the resident member\* here of the Executive Committee of the Christian Commission, aided by returned delegates, and in some instances by the Chairman† of the Commission.

The value of the services of returned delegates in the home fields will be best illustrated by a few instances.

S. E. Bridgman, Esq., a successful merchant of Northampton, Mass., gave his services as a delegate in the Army of the Cumberland, and returned about August 1st. Since that time he has visited twenty-five towns, and made over fifty addresses, twenty-eight of them in place of the regular Sabbath services.

\* Charles Demond, Esq.

† Mr. Stuart.

E. T. Quimby, Esq., of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, Principal of the Appleton Academy, since a service of unusual length and success in the same army, has visited thirty towns, made sixty-nine addresses, forty of them in place of Sabbath services.

Rev. S. L. Bowler, of Orono, Maine, after valuable services in the Army of the Potomac, by addresses, correspondence, and visiting ministers' meetings, excited an interest in the work, which pervades a large portion of the state.

As a direct result of these voluntary and self-denying labors, more than three thousand dollars were collected, large amounts of stores, comfort-bags, &c., sent to the Commission, and many delegates induced to go, besides enlisting the permanent sympathy and aid of thousands of people. What these delegates have done on a large scale, nearly every delegate has done in his own town and vicinity, and thus the expenses of collecting agents have been saved.

Their energetic and devoted labors have contributed very largely to the results now presented in the accompanying statement. The Committee here relied much on printed circular appeals, addressed to the several churches of this part of the country, which have brought a liberal response. But, notwithstanding the foregoing active and widely-extended efforts, it is due to the citizens of Boston and its immediate vicinity to state, that an application, by telegram, from the Chairman of the Commission for aid, immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, which was made public on the bulletin of the Merchants' Exchange Reading Room, resulted in a contribution in money of over twenty thousand dollars in three days, and reached the sum of thirty-five thousand in *ten* days,—a response worthy of the generous sympathies of our fellow-citizens. A second appeal was subsequently made in the same place by Mr. Stuart personally in behalf of the Union prisoners in Richmond, which resulted in about five thousand dollars' contributions within a few days. Together, these contributions amounted to about *one-half of the entire sum* contributed during the last year through this Committee. From the frequent correspondence of delegates appointed here, many thrilling facts and incidents might be gathered; but, as they may not be more marked or interesting than those furnished by the letters of delegates from

other parts of the country, which will doubtless be published, we omit to elaborate our branch of the report by the record of such evidence of the special value of their labors on the field and in hospitals. In preference to enlarging this report by introducing details connected with the department of labor, we append a summary of facts\* as being the most condensed, and perhaps useful form in which they can be presented.

We would tender our thanks to the army committees of various towns and cities throughout New England, whose zeal and energy have contributed largely to the success of our labors. The plan adopted by the army committee of St. Albans is worthy of mention. They systematically visit all the towns in the county of which St. Albans is the centre, hold meetings, distribute documents, and thus keep up the interest of the people in the work. Should every large town have a committee that would thus care for the country adjacent, there would be a great increase of contributors for the suffering men of the army.

We mention with gratitude the noble generosity of the railroads and steamboat lines in passing our delegates over their various roads and lines, and the great kindness of their officers in attending so patiently and promptly to our numerous requests. The secular and religious papers, also, have most materially assisted us by opening their columns to information and appeals in reference to our work.

In view of the encouraging record of the past year, the Committee again enter upon the duty assigned them, in the hope that, by more faithful service, under the blessing of God, still greater results may be accomplished, encouraged and stimulated also by the thought that they are thus permitted to participate in the labors of an institution which has already rendered such invaluable service to our country and its defenders.

For the Committee.

EDWARD S. TOBEY,  
Chairman.

The names of the Committee are as follows:

E. S. TOBEY, *Chairman*,

JACOB SLEEPER,

J. SULLIVAN WARREN,

JOS. STOREY,

RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.

Boston, January 20, 1863.

\* This will be found in connection with the General Summary.



**PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE.****Philadelphia Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.**

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,

Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia presents the following report for the year 1863 :

The various measures before pursued for the benefit of soldiers in the hospitals and camps in and around the city, have been successfully continued. Meetings have been held, books, papers, and tracts distributed, as will appear from the statistical table presented. Members of the Association have gone as delegates of the Commission to the seat of war. Assistance has been rendered from time to time in the arrangement and conduct of meetings at a distance from the city, for the purpose of diffusing information about the work of the Commission and increasing its means of support and extension.

The *army meetings* have been continued on successive Sabbath evenings until now, at the close of the year, we have held the one hundred and fourteenth. The attendance at these meetings has been large, and the collections generous, amounting, in the aggregate during the year, to nine thousand three hundred and one dollars. Adding this to the amount reported the previous year, three thousand and thirty-one dollars, and the total amount is swelled to twelve thousand three hundred and forty-two dollars (besides large collections sent directly to the Commission), the voluntary offerings of the churches in the city, through the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, to the work of the United States Christian Commission.

The Association has accepted a work which has brought comfort already to the families of many brave men now absent from home, perilling their lives for the cause of our country, *the distribution of coal*.

The generous coal operators in the Schuylkill region kindly proposed to the chairman of the Commission to furnish coal for this purpose, if he would provide for its proper distribution. The

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company agreed to deliver it in Philadelphia without charge for transportation. To complete the chain, we undertook its proper distribution. About *three hundred tons* have already been received and bestowed upon the suffering families of our noble volunteers. This is a noble beginning. The supply is still coming. At the close of the winter, we hope to record the distribution of not less than two thousand tons.

A record of sick and wounded Pennsylvania soldiers was commenced at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association December 10, 1862. The Army Committee placed this important and laborious work in the hands of Joseph Parker, Esq., by whom the name of every soldier of this State who, having fallen under the power of disease or the infliction of wounds, and having reached either of the twenty-five hospitals of this district, have now an honorable mention. The date of admission, name, company, regiment, disease, and final disposition of each man, has been carefully noted.

The object of the record is twofold: 1st. That information might be communicated to friends and relatives of these soldiers whenever desired; 2d. That a monument might thus be erected to their *memory* and their *praise*, to be placed in the capitol at Harrisburg for future reference.

The first object had in view has been realized already. The applications made personally and by letter have been many, and the thanksgivings of anxious and bleeding hearts attest the value placed upon this undertaking. The number of names at present upon the record is over twenty-seven thousand (27,000). With what feelings of pride posterity will trace the names of their ancestors who suffered, bled, and died for constitutional law and universal freedom, can readily be imagined. The keeping of this record, however, has been but a part of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Parker to our noble volunteers. He being among the first to serve the Christian Commission in ministering to the temporal and spiritual necessities of these men in the *army*, has faithfully continued these labors in the hospitals. Testaments, tracts, and the other religious publications provided by the Christian Commission, have been numerous and wisely distributed.

Meetings for exhortation and prayer have also been established and maintained, with the aid of other brethren, where necessity seemed to demand it. With these services our soldiers uniformly express their gratification. *One incident in connection with these meetings* : Mr. Parker having proposed to hold a service at the Haddington Hospital, during one of his visits to that institution, the surgeon in charge approached a young soldier who had lost a leg, and requested him to give notice to the other men, most of whom had been equally unfortunate with himself. The soldier, with his face beaming with delight, secured his crutches and sprang to the work. He visited all the places about the hospital, and brought in one and another, until he had secured about thirty, *all cripples for life*. The meeting proved to be one of deep and solemn interest. At the close of the exercises, the soldier, in conversation with Mr. Parker, informed him, that during the few months he had been in the hospital, he had been engaged in making crutches at a carpenter's shop some half a mile distant, and in this way had laid up sixty dollars. "Do you not think this much better than to be lying about in idleness?" said the man. "I have made this for my family, standing on one leg." In addition he remarked, "I am a member of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Stuart, President of the United States Christian Commission, sent me, a short time since, a large size copy of the New Testament, which I value very highly."

The name of this man was Boardman. In this man we have at once a noble specimen of a Christian patriot, soldier, husband, and father; and for such men the nation may be proud, and must be prosperous.

H. N. THISSELL,

Chairman Army Committee,  
Phila. Y. M. C. A.

ROOMS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,  
PHILADELPHIA, January 1st, 1864.

**BALTIMORE COMMITTEE.**

OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND COMMITTEE  
OF THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,  
BALTIMORE, January 1, 1864

**GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,**

Chairman United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: Our labors during the year have been performed in twenty-two localities, hospitals and camps. In these we have had employed three hundred delegates and other active co-laborers, who have ministered to the necessities of over seventy-five thousand soldiers. The necessities relieved were occasioned principally by the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. These battles, as it is well known, were of the most fierce and desperate character, and left upon the fields the thousands of sufferers enumerated, both of our own and the armies of the enemy. In every instance of battle our delegates were on hand, and rendered most necessary and efficient services. The hospitals of the vicinities of the battle-fields were filled alike with friends and enemies, and relief afforded to all as it was needed. The work performed was that of a true Christian philanthropy, and we are satisfied that it was approved and blessed by the Great Father of all. In the acknowledgments of rebel officers and others, we have had frequent assurances that the Christian work of doing good for evil has been accomplished by our Commission.

**Hospital Services.**

In the hospitals near the battle-fields, the delegates of the Commission engaged most earnestly in their work. While employed in the relief of the physical suffering of their charge, they were fully mindful of the necessities of the soul. They read the Scriptures and other religious books to the men, and conversed and prayed with them, encouraging them in every possible way to consider their safety, not only as it regarded the comforts of the present, but the realities of the future world. In their co-operation with the surgeons and attendants of the

hospitals and camps, our agents were enabled to render most efficient service. The record is upon thousands of grateful hearts, the gratitude of which has been expressed in unnumbered utterances of praise and blessing, and, in consideration of which, devout and faithful prayers have been offered to God on behalf of those who have performed the needed service.

### Chaplains' Services.

As soon as the hospitals were prepared, they were well provided with religious services by clergymen and others, who volunteered for duty, and wrought in its performance most faithfully and effectually. It was not possible to provide officially for this service until hospitals of a more permanent character were erected, and the authorities operated in the selection of their agents of religion. In the confusion of battle, chaplains and surgeons were, in some instances, detached from their regiments, when, without loss of time, they commenced operations as opportunity afforded, and labored as diligently and as successfully as they could have done in their own proper associations. Two chaplains, who were in the service of the Committee, proceeded from point to point, rendering assistance in every possible form to the chaplains and surgeons of hospitals and regiments. Their services were invaluable to the various departments in which they were administered.

In the more permanent hospitals, the labors of the chaplains were rendered more systematic and regular, and they have, of course, been more productive of their fruits of benevolence and love. Apartments have been provided for public worship; libraries have been established, and provision made for the regular distribution and reading of tracts, religious newspapers and books. At the present time, the work of our hospitals is pursued in the most orderly and systematic manner. The chaplains are the heads of the religious department, and, from the reports that we receive from them and the visits we make to their premises, we learn how beautifully and successfully this labor of faith and love is fulfilling its mission. Every hospital has its chaplain, and our delegates are in the habit of making daily visits to

them and assisting them in the performance of their arduous and confining labors.

### General Hospitals.

The services of our Committee have been extended to the general hospitals of Maryland. In these we have rendered service to thirty-five thousand men, ministering alike to their temporal and spiritual necessities. The general hospitals of our district as now existing and their chaplains are as follows:

Newton University, Baltimore,	Rev. Mr. Simpson.
McKim's, "	Rev. R. Spencer Vinton.
Patterson's Park, "	Rev. George A. Leakin.
Jarvis, "	Rev. F. W. Brauns.
West's, "	Rev. J. T. Van Barkalow.
National, "	Rev. T. J. Bowen.
Fort McHenry, "	Rev. A. A. Reese, D.D.
Navy Yard, Annapolis,	Rev. H. A. Henries.
St. John's, "	Rev. Mr. Hammond.
Camp Parole, near Annapolis,	Rev. Mr. Bent, Delegate C. C.
Annapolis Junction,	— —
Frederick,	Rev. B. H. Creever.
Cumberland,	— —
York,	Rev. Mr. Brown.
Point Lookout,	Rev. J. A. Spooner.
Fort Delaware,	— —

The above-named chaplains, with the exception of the Rev. Mr. Bent, have charge of their respective hospitals by appointment under the Government of the United States. Their services are regularly and statedly performed. They consist of daily visits through the wards; public services and preaching, prayer-meetings; experience meetings; distribution of tracts, religious books, religious newspapers, and reading to and conversing with the patients under their care.

### Labors Beyond the District.

In times of necessity our chaplains and delegates have been directed to extend their labors beyond the limits of our own district, and all the members of the Committee have visited the

following hospitals and camps: Gettysburg, Hanover Junction, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Winchester, Charlestown, Fortress Monroe, and Alexandria. In all these localities the labors of the Commission have been performed by delegates and agents, and from letters received and public notices in the newspapers, we have been informed of valuable services that have been rendered.

### Camp Parole.

This camp at one time possessed a most unenviable reputation, on account of the reckless characters and conduct of the men who were congregated upon its premises. In connection with several gentlemen and ladies of our vicinity, the Committee labored for several months in the effort to secure regular religious services, and such other ministrations as might operate in the reformation of the camp. For some time the labors were unsuccessfully expended, when a few heroic women were induced to undertake the dangerous and laborious task the field of labor imposed. They provided themselves with shelter by the erection of temporary apartments, and proceeded with their work. They were surprised at the respect with which they were received and treated by the men, and soon learned that there was the prospect of success for faithful and devoted labors. They wrought for months with encouraging effect, and their labor of reformation is still in progress. The camp is now under the efficient control of Colonel Root, by whose exertions it has been reduced to an excellent condition of order and propriety. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton, delegate of the Christian Commission, and for a time acting chaplain, succeeded in erecting a rude rustic chapel, which is composed of posts planted in the ground, unhewn cross timbers, and branches of trees. In this chapel, devout thanksgivings have been poured forth to God for his merciful intervention on their behalf, by some whose lips were seldom opened before in the acknowledgment of favor either to God or man. The Rev. Mr. Bent, one of our delegates, is now the acting chaplain of the camp. He is actively and energetically engaged in the performance of religious services. The labors of both Messrs. Hamilton and Bent have been greatly blessed. They have wrought successfully in securing God's favor in the conversion of a large number of the unfor-

tunate men who were placed under their care. They have established a library in the camp, in which are some very valuable books, which are kept in constant circulation among the men under the chaplain's supervision. Instances have come to our knowledge in which some of the most reckless characters of the camp were converted into the most order-loving and religiously devoted worshippers of the chapel. They are known in their habits of leaving the camp and seeking the solitude of the woods for prayer. The solitary worshipper has been surprised in his devotions by the approach of a comrade, who in a short time was succeeded by another and another, all in search of a secluded spot for prayer, when the little assembly thus formed has followed out the purpose of the men composing it by entering upon the services of religion in the most hearty and determined manner. The wilds have been rendered vocal with their prayers and songs of praise, and before the services have closed a large number of worshippers were in attendance and the most blessed results realized. In meetings thus accidentally or providentially ordered, mutual pledges have been made of faithful devotion to God's service, and the interchange of prayers promised by the friends on behalf of each other.

#### Camp Tyler.

The condition of Camp Tyler, in being the receptacle of recovered stragglers and deserters, was, on a limited scale, similar to that of Camp Parole. Under the discipline of General Tyler a reformation was effected which changed entirely the character of the camp. A part of the discipline consisted in religious services, supplied by the Christian Commission, and in the attendance upon the hospital of the camp of Mrs. Alph Hyatt and Mrs. G. S. Griffith. More ladies were in attendance every day, and the moral influence of their presence and conversation was sufficient to restrain the men from the outbreaks and violence which they were disposed to commit. Colonel Sangster, who had especial charge of the camp, enforced rigidly and kindly the orders of General Tyler, and was successful in securing the good behavior of his men, outside as well as inside the camp inclosure. Colonel Sangster frequently acknowledged his obligations to the ladies for their services, and declared that he



was more indebted to their presence and example than to anything else for his success.

### **Hanover Junction.**

One of the busiest and most successful of the scenes of our labors in Maryland, was that which appeared in the establishment of a mission at Hanover Junction. All the wounded of both armies at the battle of Gettysburg, as they were able to endure transportation, were sent to the several hospitals of our district and to others in the Northern States. They all passed the Junction, where, in cars provided for the purpose, Mrs. Alph Hyatt, Mrs. Henry Stockbridge, Mrs. Gosnell, and other ladies, labored for several weeks in providing refreshments for the sufferers. By arrangement with the officer in charge of the department, the trains were stopped at the Junction, each containing from three hundred to eight hundred of the wounded, some of whom were very badly injured. To these the ladies ministered in the distribution of such hospital stores as were adapted to their condition. Thousands of gallons of lemonade, ginger-water, coffee and tea, with soft bread and biscuits, were distributed at this point, and many were the blessings that were invoked upon them for their kind intervention. Members of the Committee have been present and assisted in their benevolent work when large numbers were in transportation, and it required great activity to supply them all with the refreshments, which were abundantly provided for their use.

### **Other Points of Service.**

At the corner of Pratt Street and Central Avenue, the depot of the Northern Central Railroad, and other points in Baltimore, the trains containing the wounded were stopped, while the ladies in attendance, assisted by their gentlemen friends, supplied refreshments to all on board. The scenes thus daily presented were of most interesting character. Citizens while passing along the streets were attracted, and waited in large numbers, to witness the process by which the hundreds of their disabled countrymen were refreshed in their transit from the battle-field to the hospital. As the attendants proceeded along the trains with

their baskets and buckets, the hands of the needy men were thrust forward, some holding out tin-cups and canteens, which they desired should be filled, and others for the receipt of soft bread and biscuit, sandwiched with sliced ham, tongue and preserves.

#### **Order of the Hospitals.**

The order of all the hospitals is good. The men who are convalescing live together in harmony, and seem to enjoy pleasure in each other's association. They amuse themselves in various ways, and seem like little communities of citizens, whose interest it is to assist each other and to show personal regard for each other's comforts and enjoyments. Under the directions of the chaplains, religious and literary exercises are conducted, and the best of feeling appears to prevail among the inmates of them all.

#### **Ladies' Relief Associations.**

Connected with every hospital is a ladies' relief association, to which is intrusted the management of the department through which the sick and suffering are afforded the attention they deserve and need, in the preparation of such articles of nourishing food and delicacies as are grateful to the afflicted. The presence and services of the ladies present a home appearance to the hospital, and induce a feeling of comfort and reliance which no other agency can supply. It is in the sacrifice of personal comfort and convenience that the ladies perform this much-needed and very desirable service. They are supplied from our warehouse with such articles as we can provide. The daily demand for stores has to this time been met by us, and we have reason to hope that we shall be able to continue the work as long as there may be need for it.

#### **Appeals of Families.**

Now that the number of patients in the hospitals is diminishing, a new feature of our Christian work appears in the appeals presented by the suffering families of those who are in the field doing service to their country. In large numbers the wives and children of the soldiers of our army appear before us; they are destitute and in a condition of need and suffering, and must be relieved. The ladies have associations especially for this

purpose, and we have received contributions of money and stores for their aid, which we have with much satisfaction appropriated to their use. The demand from this source must continue to increase, and large supplies are necessary in order to meet it. A kind and merciful Providence has heretofore wrought the relief in proportion to the emergency, and we entertain no doubt whatever that such will be the case in the future, however increased may be the necessities thus produced.

### Christian Association.

Our Christian Association, which now consists of over seventy members, continues to perform its full measure of service to our cause. By these self-sacrificing gentlemen, all the hospitals and camps of our district are visited. They co-operate with chaplains in the performance of such services as are admissible, in the holding of prayer-meetings, in conversations with the sick and convalescing, and in the distribution of tracts, books, religious papers, &c. The meetings of this association are held monthly. They are of a most interesting character. The members are divided into committees, the chairman of each of which presents either a written or verbal report of his labors during the past month, and they counsel together in relation to the best methods of pursuing their work. In some instances, most interesting and encouraging details of events are made, producing the most pleasant feelings, and warming up the hearts of the laborers for future efforts in their work of love on behalf of suffering humanity.

The members of the association visit the families of the soldiers who are in the field, and minister to their spiritual and temporal necessities as opportunities are afforded. This body of colaborers with the Christian Commission has done great service to our cause. Many of the members are clergymen, and all of them are members of religious societies and professors of religion. They are all, therefore, capable of performing the work assigned them. The fruits of their labors are the testimonials of their usefulness. Those fruits are to be witnessed not only in the hospitals and camps, but in every part of our city where suffering humanity is calling for their presence and assistance.

### **Religious Meetings.**

It were impossible for us to ascertain the number of meetings for religious purposes that have been held by our delegates and other colaborers. Every day and night these meetings take place, either in hospitals or camps, or in churches, school-houses and dwelling-houses of the city and its vicinity. The effects of these meetings are visible in the evil they are the means of overruling, and the good conduct and character they are inducing.

### **Public Meetings.**

A public meeting was held at Light Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore, on the 30th of April, the fast day appointed by the President of the United States. A second public meeting took place on the 6th of August, the day of thanksgiving appointed by the President. This meeting was held in the Central Presbyterian Church, corner of Saratoga and Liberty Streets. A third meeting was held on the 26th of November, the last Thanksgiving day. This meeting took place in the Light Street Methodist Episcopal Church. All the meetings thus appointed were successful in their labors and results. The churches in which they were held were crowded to overflowing, and great interest was manifested in all their exercises. They were emphatically UNION PRAYER-MEETINGS, and we do not doubt that the great cause we have in hand of ministering to the relief of the suffering occasioned by the war was rendered more popular among our people, and more successful through their agency.

### **Relief for the Union Prisoners at Richmond.**

Several hundred boxes of substantial stores have been sent from our warehouse to the Union prisoners at Richmond. We have been enabled, by the consent of the officers of the departments of both the army lines, to conduct correspondence with prisoners, from whom we have learned of their necessities and of the relief we have afforded them. Our stores have been received and acknowledged; while at the same time we have been informed of the failure of other efforts in a similar service. Our Christian flag is the Banner of the Cross. It would wave in its mission of hope and love over peaceful and prosperous nations;

but if men will rebel against authority, and resist each other to violence and blood, its white folds must be unfurled over the laborers that hasten to the relief of the stricken, and minister in the supply of the necessities alike of both body and soul.

While the Banner shall be respected, our work shall be prosperous. Should respect for it cease, deplorable must be the condition of barbarism and intolerance to which we must be reduced. May it ever float in its beauty above us, and may we, though all unworthy, ever share in the benefits of its protection.

### Conclusion.

We may certainly say that, with confidence in view of the success of Christian enterprise, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." And we may trust with equal confidence to His merciful and beneficent providence for our future support. We doubt not that we shall be sustained, and that, as we need them, friends will be raised up to assist us. Heretofore, according to our necessities have been the supplies, and we feel assured that such will be the realization of the future. It is God's work, and He will direct and aid in its accomplishment. His is the gift of the will; His the gift of ability to work, and the success that crowns it. To Him be the glory.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. McJILTON,

Secretary of the Committee of Maryland.

From Rev. G. R. Bent.

CAMP PAROLE, MARYLAND,

NEAR ANNAPOLIS, January 1st, 1864.

When I arrived at Camp Parole, I found the Rev. S. P. Merrill, a successful delegate of the United States Christian Commission from Carlton, Orleans County, N. Y. Brother Merrill had preceded me four days. Much interest had been excited among the men as a result of his labors; some had been reclaimed. Meetings were held on the Sabbath P. M. Bible class in the morning, prayer-meeting or preaching in the evening; also, prayer-meetings some three evenings in the week. However, everything seemed unsettled. We had only a small office and store-room in the officers' barracks.

Quarters were given us by Colonel Root, commanding the

post, who, by the way, as a Christian gentleman, has done all in his power to favor us in our work of love. Lieutenant Stevens, 5th Maine Volunteers—God bless the man—although not a professing Christian, has, with all the officers in the barracks, lent a helping hand. Now, we have quarters, five rooms, office, store-room, delegates' room, and two rooms for my family. Colonel Root gave the order, and the men went to work with goodwill to prepare our home. For a number of days I could give but a part of my time to the work by personal effort. This seems to be the secret of success in this camp, as in all others where I have labored.

*The Change of Camp.*—The old camp had the reputation of being filthy and undesirable, and I suppose justly so. But the sanitary condition of the camp has changed. Now the buildings are regular, look neat and clean, and are ample for all the men. The police guard keep the ground through the camp free from all filth. The streets, the pumps, the buildings, all look inviting. In fact Camp Parole, with its reforms, its kind and prompt officers, is a very desirable place. And as a result of the efforts put forth even in the past few weeks, the observing ones say the camp presents a different moral face.

The first meeting I attended, three men rose for prayer at its close. We at once decided to have meetings every evening in the week, and we found the numbers increase of those who desired salvation. Once as many as eleven came forward, and many young men who came here unconverted are brought to Christ, and backsliders are reclaimed from their wanderings, rejoicing as returned prodigals, while many are anxious and resolve to become Christians. Since the meetings commenced, scarcely a day or evening has passed that did not witness some interesting scene in our office. Men come after the evening meetings to be prayed for and instructed in the way of life.

Christmas Eve a man came to the office, named Fisher: his burden of sin was heavy; he could not leave till blessed. After instruction imparted and many earnest prayers offered, the man found peace. I never saw a more happy change. Truly he went on his way rejoicing,—all things had become new; he walked the room and clapped his hands, declaring all things praised God. And so with a young man from Massachusetts, named

Squires, of good education and fine social qualities. He was convicted, and remained for days seeking. But one evening, after meeting, in the office, he found peace of mind, and now rejoices in hope of the glory of God. How that mother's heart will rejoice, and the father look down from his heavenly home and minister to the strength and joy of the son's heart! There is joy in heaven when a sinner repenteth.

Our meetings (January 5th) still continue most interesting. Last evening three young men rose to ask our prayers, and this evening two. One young man, after meeting, told me he would be a Christian, and promised to pray before retiring. Weeping, he promised, and he will do it. A score of young men stood up and thanked God that they came to Camp Parole, to be brought under the influence of the Christian Commission.

A young man named Silverwood said, in making the second charge on the rebels at Vicksburg, in storming the works, where only thirty out of five hundred men got inside, "I knew if I was killed I should be lost, and I was a *good* Catholic, as my father was before me, and there," said he, "I promised God if He would spare me, I would serve Him; and I was spared, and came to Camp Parole to give my heart to Christ; and now I am happy, and will serve God as long as I live."

A Christian Association has been organized for mutual improvement, and to help each other in the service of God. Sixty-six members at the present time; twenty more want to join now. The enterprise has been productive of much good. We have a circulating library, which enables the men to pass away many lonely hours. I have heard nothing but eulogies on the United States Christian Commission. The records of eternity will reveal glorious results. With faith in our efforts and patience for our reward, we labor and wait.

We have a fine store-room, and have distributed in the month from it:

Scriptures, Testaments and Bibles,	. . .	152
Hymns and Psalms,	. . . . .	389
Soldiers' books,	. . . . .	2,680
Bound volumes,	. . . . .	10
Pages of tracts,	. . . . .	15,870

Papers,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,356
Pamphlets,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9

One Bible class has been held, thirty-six letters written, and aid given to one hundred sick and wounded soldiers.

In the month of December, 1863, twelve meetings for preaching, thirty-seven for prayer, and six funeral services, were held.

The above has been a small part of our work. Personal effort has been greatly blessed, and much of it been put forth.

The suffering of our men while prisoners can never be written. S. Chatfield, Company E, 1st Mounted Rifles, New York, said he saw six poor fellows who were wasted by hunger and chilled with cold, for one dollar procure a small stick of wood, cut it in pieces and make a fire of it, and sit down to get a little heat. When it had gone out, one poor fellow leaned over the place where the fire had been; he put his face in his hands, and in the morning was found dead in that position. And men are buried there from a box in which their bodies are put, carried to the grave and rolled from it into the hole in the sand; the same boxes being used till worn out. All the religious reading distributed is from the North. The Christian Commission has the credit of sending books and papers to our prisoners. Many men who hear the Gospel here, say they have been deprived of such a blessing for months. One young man in the hospital, when asked if he would go to the chapel, gladly consented, saying, he had not listened to preaching for two years. He listened, and was comforted and blessed, and so it has been.

Mr. Merrill writes: "We are at the place where all the paroled men come from their prison-life, which has been especially trying. Men come here so weak from starvation and inaction, owing to the great number crowded together in Richmond prisons, that if they stumble in walking they fall helpless to the ground, oftentimes cutting and bruising themselves severely, all from sheer exhaustion. The men usually arrive here destitute of clothing, more or less, as well as of money and strength. Large bodies move slowly, so that some days would naturally elapse before the men can be provided for with clothing and pay from the Government. Meantime, afflicted as many of them are with chronic diseases, they would sink from continued exposure.



Without money, too, they are unable to procure even the material for writing to their friends at home, who, if they knew, would gladly supply them. It was precisely this work your Commission was enabled to do at the late arrival of our paroled men. Every one received paper and envelopes; lead-pencils were cut up and given as far as they went. The men were urged to write home to tell the good news of their safety. Newspapers were distributed till they were fully supplied, and to these men, immured, as they had been, for from three months to a year, anything was news. Many of the men—indeed, I may say all of them—were covered with vermin, for they say “Belle Isle is as lively as an ant-hill with them.” I distributed Castile soap in little bits to them, that it might go the farther, men the while holding their hands under the cakes to catch any grains that might fall. The few towels I had I distributed to those who said they would share with from five to ten.

Something like thirty-five of these men were brought to Camp Parole Hospital, and, through the agency of the Christian Commission, are now enjoying the luxury of warm woollen shirts, which the surgeons say are better for them than medicines, to recruit their wasted energies. The men are high in praise of our good work, and say they shall thank the Commission all their lives for the aid, so precious, because so timely.

The Government needs men to finish up the war, and has its officers to recruit men for the service. It has its commissary and quartermaster departments. Its hospitals afford comfort to the sick and wounded men, patriots. The Sanitary Commission has poured its wealth into the arms of the Government through its agents at the various points of distribution. In the development of our resources the world stands astonished. The strong arm of the Government has new elements of strength added constantly, and one not insignificant is the wealth and energy of the United States Christian Commission. We not only give comfort to all who call, but we go out into the highways and hedges, and compel men to come in. The delegates encourage men to re-enlist. Seven or eight men told me yesterday that the Commission was such a source of pleasure that scores and hundreds would re-enlist now who would not have thought of it before having such comfort brought to them. Ten more told me this

morning that they know God has blessed the Commission all through the army in doing great good. Here are the voices of praise from Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina; from the thousands of homes made glad by your efforts, hospitals made desirable by your delegates, and the famishing sons of the North and South fed by your bounty.

Parole Camp is now rejoicing in these influences. But the end will come. Peace must follow. This whole generation will pass away. The silence of ages may succeed. But the stillness will be broken at last by the archangel's trumpet. Then, when the long line of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and just men made perfect, shall present themselves to hear from the Master the glad welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord," prominent amongst them will appear the officers and delegates of the Christian Commission.

GILBERT R. BENT,

Agent for United States Christian Commission.

Thus Parole Camp, though near Annapolis, and intimately connected with the Annapolis agency, has been provided for by a distinct arrangement, with Rev. G. R. Bent in charge.

### **The Annapolis Agency.**

Annapolis by itself is a large field, abundant in work and peculiar in interest. Its immense national Naval School establishment,—professors' houses, offices, rooms, chapel, and all,—is one vast hospital, with cots for three thousand pupils in the school of patience and suffering for the sake of the nation. Its college,—St. John's,—also devoted to the same purpose of new national education, as a school for martyr-patriots; and its College Green Barracks, a receiving camp, where frequently twelve hundred men at a time have been quartered. These, if there was nothing about them different from other hospitals and barracks of similar extent, would afford work to enlist the hearts and hands of the generous and strong.

To these all, however, must be added one feature far above the ordinary plane of interest in hospitals and barracks. An-

napolis is the landing-place of all our paroled men from the prisons of Richmond. College Green Barracks is the receiving camp. Here they come direct from Libby, Castle Thunder, the Tobacco Warehouses, and Belle Island, in filth and rags, and worse. The Government has ample arrangements for washing, purifying, clothing anew, and appeasing the ravenous appetite first of all when they land.

Then, however, home is remembered afresh, and must be apprised of the happy release by letter; and for this the stationary and services if need be of the delegate of the Christian Commission are in especial demand. The mental appetite, released from the long prison-famine, craves something to read, calling again upon the Commission for supply. And religious privileges, all the more precious by reason of many months' utter deprivation, are welcomed and sought as only such men can welcome and seek them.

Those who are not well enough to be sent out to Camp Parole, are sent into the hospitals for the benefit of medical treatment and kind nursing, where they again are in position to receive such comforts—furnished by the Commission—from the hands of the ladies, as the surgeons advise. Shut out from all the relief and comfort we would gladly have sent to them, if possible, in prison, the only satisfaction we can have is that of meeting their wants instantly and fully when they are released.

To meet more perfectly the wants of Annapolis, at the solicitation of the excellent surgeon in charge, Dr. Vanderkiefte, last autumn, Rev. I. O. Sloan, as soon as released from Gettysburg and sufficiently recovered from exhaustion, was placed in charge, as will be seen by his own appended report.

Through all the preceding months of the year, delegates had been sent from time to time to aid Chaplain Henries in his immense parish,—the Naval School Hospital,—and also Chaplain Hammond, of St. John's College Hospital, and to do what they could in College Green Barracks.

Supplies were sent to the noble ladies of Annapolis, Mrs. Governor Bradford, Mrs. Judge Cochrane, and their associates, to aid them in their unwearied efforts to relieve and restore to health the wounded from the battle-fields, and the sufferers from Richmond.

Before war times, and before the Naval School was turned into a hospital, while it yet flourished in this its ancient seat on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay as a school for the navy, it had a chapel,—in architecture a commodious church,—ornamented in front with imposing columns. But the sad necessities of war soon stripped it bare as a barn for hospital purposes; and bad taste, not to say anything worse, degraded it to a pest-house. The chaplain, however, obtained its restoration, and renovated it with whitewash and paint. To furnish it anew he applied to the Christian Commission, and through its influence enlisted Miss O'Neil and her friends in Philadelphia, who, at several hundred dollars expense, supplied settees and cushions for the chapel, a sofa for the pulpit, and everything complete. Then when Christmas approached, Miss O'Neil's brother-in-law, Mr. Orne, secured and supplied a fine Christmas dinner for the hundreds of men in the hospital.

And here let it be noted that nothing of all this has been added in with the figures embodied in our tabular statements and general summary. These and other like things, if included, would greatly swell the various amounts.

The following letter from *Rev. I. O. Sloan* will give some idea of the work during the later months of the year :

ANNAPOLIS, MD., January 1st, 1864.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.

In October last, now a little more than two months, I arrived at Annapolis, and engaged in the work of the Christian Commission. At this place all paroled and exchanged prisoners are received from Richmond. The men on their arrival are sent, according to their condition, to the several places established here for their accommodation and medical treatment by the Government. The sick and wounded are received into the hospitals. At Annapolis there are two: Division Hospital No. 1, occupying the buildings of the Naval School. This is in charge of Surgeon B. A. Vanderkiefte. And Division Hospital No. 2, at St. John's College, in charge of Surgeon G. B. Parker. Those who are well are received, first to be supplied with clothing, at College Green Barracks, and then at Camp Parole. At each of these points some aid has been rendered by the Christian Commission. But the labor of the delegates has chiefly been

directed to Camp Parole, and the Naval School Hospital, these places having by far the largest number of men. My time has been spent almost entirely at the Naval School Hospital. I have occasionally visited the other places, and supplied them with stores.

I have found constant work at this post, but, like all my endeavors to relieve and comfort the suffering among those fighting to crush this wicked rebellion, it has afforded pleasure and an ever-present reward. We acknowledge the receipt of many boxes of supplies,—in all, I think, over one hundred and fifty, large and small. The contents embraced almost every variety of gifts for the comfort of our suffering men.

The prompt and liberal response to our calls for aid upon the Commission, on the arrival of our emaciated and starved comrades from Richmond, has convinced all among us, as well as elicited the praise of all, that our noble organization is not wanting in earnest effort and ability to relieve the wants of our soldiers at any and every point. Several boat-loads of our prisoners from Richmond have arrived since I have been here. At each arrival, I have been on the boat and assisted in their removal. October 29th, one hundred and eighty arrived; of this number several were dead when the boat reached the wharf. We need not describe the condition of these men. It has been sufficiently noted in the papers; and some may be incredulous of all that has been written about the appearance and condition of those who arrived at this date, and of the succeeding arrival, on the 18th of November. But the accounts scarcely picture the reality. Very many have gone to the grave. The cause can be attributed to nothing else but *starvation*. Poor boys! Noble young men many of them! We have wept at the sight. And we have thanked God, over and over again, that we have such brave, patriotic, noble men in our land! Their cheerfulness surprises us. There is no complaining,—no regret that they came to the army. Even where men are without limbs, having lost them in battle, the expression of all is, "I wish I was able to be in my regiment." With such "boys" who will be disheartened about the result of this contest? In the strength of God, we shall conquer this rebellion. We have never yet doubted in regard to the final issue. I find in my note-book

many incidents of touching interest, gathered while visiting through the different wards. It would make my report too lengthy to give you all I have noted down. The heart knoweth its own bitterness. A stranger to any crushing sorrow occasioned by the loss of sons, husbands and brothers in this war, can scarcely enter into the feelings of those who have been thus sorely bereaved. It is when affliction invades the home-circle, and each member feels that a tie is broken, and a beloved relative has gone, never to come again on earth, with his familiar voice and presence, to cheer and brighten that home, that we can appreciate and understand the grief of others. Yesterday, I stood by the side of a young man from Espyville, Crawford County, Pa., who was rapidly nearing the grave. He was one of the starved ones that came from Richmond. I had just sent a telegram to his father, informing him of his low condition, and saying, at his son's request, to come on immediately. A kind lady from Boston, Miss Clark, who came to do what she could to relieve the sufferings of the patients, was present, anxious to prolong life, and seeking to supply the place of a mother or sister. Unexpectedly his father came into the room. He had come expecting to find him able to go home. With this in view, he had applied and obtained the grant of a furlough for him. But the heart was stricken and overwhelmed with grief and disappointment, when he came to the couch of his suffering, dying boy. He came, not as he fondly hoped, to take him home, full of life and recovered health, but to return with only the lifeless remains. He died last night. But there was consolation to the father in his death. Jesus was the hope and comfort of that much-loved son in the hour of death. The father felt that his boy,—his youngest,—was at rest, and that beyond the shores of time he should see him again. Now, to the believer, hard as it is, in all this terrible war, to lose friends, what a consolation to know, when sacrificed on the altar of their country, they have gone to the bright realms of eternal peace! Life is short. But life has its duties, and none, next to those we owe to God, are more pressing and binding on us than loyalty and sacrifices for our country. And while we perform these, let us never forget that our life beyond time ends not, and our highest welfare and happiness centres there. The hundreds of

noble young men,—brothers and sons,—who have fallen on the battle-field, or in the hospitals, and whose loss has cast a gloom over many a happy household, if they have died in the Christian's faith, they are not lost. Though suddenly cut off, they have only given up this short, weary, changing life, for a bright, peaceful immortality! Viewing death in this light, we were not surprised to hear the father of him whose case we have described, say, "I would rather be going home with the cold, inanimate body of my son, than to see him as I have seen some since I have been here,—reeling and tossing under the influence of liquor, and pouring out horrid oaths." And why? Because it would be but a little while before father and son would meet again on the banks of eternal life. And there is no parting there.

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### WASHINGTON COMMITTEE.

#### Report of the Washington Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

THIS city has been the centre from which has gone forth a stream of healing influences. The delegates, on their way to and from the army, spend a few days here; and when broken down by labor in the field, return for a few days' rest, which, however, are usually spent in doing good among the numerous hospitals in and around the city. In this way a great amount of labor has been performed, of which no record has been kept, and no tabular statement could give an adequate idea of it.

The rooms so kindly and freely granted by the Young Men's Christian Association were vacated on the 1st of October, the owner compelling the Association to leave.

A great difficulty was experienced in procuring suitable rooms for the use of the Commission, and the best that could be done was to rent a dwelling-house, which answers admirably for an office and rooms for the delegates, and which has sometimes accommodated fifteen men at once.

A cheap but ample warehouse was built alongside, and thus our wants were met and supplied.

There has been very cordial co-operation between the mission-

ary of the Young Men's Christian Association and the delegates, in supplying the local field, a sketch of which has been prepared by the Rev. O. P. Pitcher, the missionary.

We are now maturing plans for the more perfect development of this most interesting field, by securing a ministerial or lay brother to take charge of each encampment, who will report monthly. Already several points are thus supplied. Rev. Dr. Tustin has charge of one lot of barracks, where he preaches to the men, distributes reading matter, visits the sick, supplies their wants, and does them all the good he can. Rev. A. Eberlin, a young Lutheran, has charge of another, and so on. The hospitals, twenty-two in number, are well supplied with chaplains, who get their regular supplies of reading matter from the Commission, and faithfully attend to its distribution. As a class, our chaplains are worthy of all confidence, and any aid in our power is most cheerfully rendered them. The regular hospitals are so well supplied with all reasonable comforts, that very little is required by them; but what little is required is furnished through a reliable channel. The front and outside hospitals need and receive most.

Many of the men composing the Invalid Corps have required extra under-clothing, which has always been furnished when we were satisfied of the merits of the case.

### Camp Convalescent.

This camp, as its name implies, is the place where disabled men are gathered and cared for during the period of their convalescence.

As soon as they get strong enough to leave their hospitals, they are brought here to regain a state of health that will enable them to join their regiments. It may be called "Camp Convalescent" in the highest sense and best meaning of that term, for thousands of soldiers are here found convalescent in soul as well as in body.

"This very spot," said a soldier the other day, "which used to be called 'Camp Misery,' has been to me 'Camp Paradise,' for He that loved me and gave himself for me, hath 'put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.'"



A wonderful work of grace has been in progress at this camp throughout the entire year. More than one thousand men, at the lowest estimate—some well informed say over four thousand—have here been renewed in heart and life during the year just closed.

### Chapel Enlargements.

At the beginning of the year, our chapel in this place was a canvas tent; a large one, indeed, but not large enough for the congregation that daily crowded within and around its elastic walls. In the month of April last this gave place to a substantial wooden structure, with sittings for some five hundred men, erected by the soldiers from materials furnished by the Christian Commission.

In a little time this was filled uncomfortably full, and more room was called for. "*Church extension! Church extension!*" cried the boys. "Give us at least a place to stand, that we may hear the word of the Lord." The chapel was then enlarged on three sides, and made capable of holding one thousand persons. The increase in attendance has well-nigh kept pace with the increase in chapel accommodation.

### Chapel Services.

These are regularly and promptly observed, in the following order:

- (1.) A prayer-meeting every morning, at 9 o'clock.
- (2.) A Bible class every afternoon, Sundays excepted, at 2 o'clock.
- (3.) Preaching, followed by a season of prayer, every evening, except those of Wednesday and Saturday.
- (4.) A temperance meeting, which, for several months, has received an average of fifty names per week for the pledge, every Wednesday evening.
- (5.) A conference meeting, on the business men's plan, in which more than one hundred often take part in succession every Saturday evening.
- (6.) Preaching three times on the Sabbath, the third service followed by a season of prayer.

Besides these chapel services, a regular ministration is also had in the hospital and in the barracks.

Our library is not adequate to the demand, although from fifty to seventy-five volumes a day are loaned out.

### **Camp Stoneman.**

This is situated on the eastern side of the Potomac, about six miles from Washington. The number of men found at this camp varies from five thousand to nine thousand.

It is a camp for cavalry, and necessarily covers a large area, tents and barracks for the men, stables for the horses, forage stores, parade grounds; all these taken together require ample space.

The station of the Commission at this camp like the camp itself, is comparatively new. The first chapel tent erected upon this ground, was raised in October last.

Since that time, from three to six delegates have labored here with earnestness and fidelity, and have been greatly encouraged in seeing the immediate fruits of their labors. Not less than two hundred conversions are believed to have taken place here during the months of November and December.

### **Alexandria.**

Through the kindness and consideration of the military authorities in Alexandria, greatly increased facilities are now afforded for our work in that city. The well-known "Sumter House" on Fairfax Street had become infamous, and began to be called "a den of iniquity." There was held the midnight revel. There was seen the zigzag stagger of the man who had tarried too long at the wine. There was heard the hollow rattling laugh of the strange woman. The corruption grew worse, and became intolerable. Then came the prompt action of martial law, confiscating the house and scattering its contents. Next came the cleansing, painting, carpeting, and then the occupancy by the delegates, and religious publications of the Christian Commission. Religious meetings, several times a week, are now held at this house, and the sweet voices of prayer and praise are heard issuing from the place where but a little time ago was heard the harsh jargon of rioting and excess.

Take this as an illustrative case. It aptly indicates the transforming influence of the Gospel of Christ upon the hearts of soldiers in that city. At a prayer-meeting held at the "Summer House" a short time since, a soldier arose and said, "You see what a change has been made in this house! That shows what God has done for my soul. It was once a nest of corruption. To-night it is filled with love, joy, and praise."

Our field of labor at Alexandria is one that promises an abundant harvest. "The Soldiers' Rest," "The Teamsters' Park," "The Ambulance Stand," "The Slave Pen," "Three Divisions of Hospitals," "Detached Regiments," "Garrisons of Neighboring Forts,"—all these are places of great and growing interest to the Christian delegates who visit them, carrying the word of God, both in their hearts and in their hands.

#### **Point Lookout, Md.,**

Is a place of considerable interest as a field of missionary labor. Here is found the "Hammond General Hospital." Here are several regiments of infantry, and a force of cavalry. Here is a large prison, containing from seven thousand to ten thousand rebel prisoners.

Our delegates have labored here but a small portion of the time during the past year, but brief as has been the period of their services, it was long enough to give them a glad assurance that their work was highly appreciated and abundantly productive.

A delegate in that place writes thus: "We preached in the chapel, we preached in the hospital, and we preached in the prison. We preached to our own men and we preached to the rebels, and wherever we went the duller eyes brightened and welcomed our coming." "Conversions every day," writes another delegate.

The Gospel seems to have been effective upon the prisoners, as well as those that were free, and many a rebel who entered the prison a scoffer, has become a man of prayer.

#### **The Defences of Washington.**

The forts and batteries which encircle the city of Washington are garrisoned by regiments which have but few chaplains con-

nected with them. Many of these garrisons send every week to our office in Washington, and obtain a supply of religious weekly papers. Our delegates have visited all these forts during the last two months, have held religious services in most of them, and have distributed wholesome reading matter in all of them.

### **City Barracks, Teamsters' Parks, &c.**

Upon the borders of the city, within the line of defences, are numerous barracks for soldiers, ambulance stands, teamsters' parks, &c., which contain an aggregate of some fifteen thousand men. At several of these points our delegates hold religious services regularly every Sabbath. "God bless the Christian Commission!" is heard often at all these points, "and you too," is sometimes added as our brethren bring them relief and comfort both for the body and the soul.

### **Report of Rev. O. P. Pitcher, City Missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association.**

Recognized at the first meeting of the Commission as the proper local development of its spirit and practical working, and since heartily co-operating with the U. S. Christian Commission.

The great mission field which has been opened to Christian effort at the Nation's Capitol since the commencement of the war, is one well calculated to arouse the zeal of the church, and call forth the most faithful and persevering exertions to bring the means of grace to the multitudes of soldiers and quartermaster's men, who are thronging the city and its suburbs.

There are twenty-two general hospitals in this military department, located mostly in Washington and Alexandria, containing about fourteen thousand beds, now about half filled, and although these are supplied with Government chaplains, yet when great numbers of sick and wounded have been brought suddenly to these hospitals, there has been great opportunity for the co-operation of the Christian Commission and other benevolent agencies with the chaplains, in ministering to the sufferers.

There is a much larger number of small hospitals, camp and regimental, in and around the city, many of which, with the regiments and various bodies of troops to which they belong, are

without chaplains. There are not less than about ten thousand of this class alone. Among these the artillery in the forts, city guards of volunteer cavalry and infantry, the Invalid Corps, the engineers, the detachments, and the great depot of field artillery, called Camp Barry, interesting services have been held, both by the delegates of the Commission, and the city missionary.

There are usually lying at the navy-yard from five to ten gunboats, tugs, dispatch-boats, and transports, with crews varying from ten to one hundred men each. These are constantly changing, thus, during the year, furnishing extensive opportunity for missionary labor.

The Central Guard-house in Washington furnishes, if not so pleasant, yet an important field of labor for the philanthropist and the Christian. The officer in charge reports that during the year ending January 1, 1864, there have been committed:

For being absent without a pass, . . . . .	6,988
For drunkenness, . . . . .	1,489
For desertion, . . . . .	925
For miscellaneous charges, . . . . .	2,062
Total, . . . . .	11,464

The soldiers, who constitute the greater part of the prisoners, are congregated in what may be termed the *open prison*, a large room on the second floor, about thirty or forty feet square. Here, in this room, the Gospel may be preached to from fifty to one hundred and fifty soldiers at almost any hour. Citizens, pickpockets, and various criminals, are confined in cells in the rear.

*Forest Hall Prison*, in Georgetown, constitutes another important branch of this great mission field. This prison is used for the confinement of *deserters*, of whom there were committed in October fifteen hundred, in November one thousand, and in December (1863) about six hundred. A part of this large number for October, however, were men who had returned from the fortifications, and not newly committed.

These did not generally appear to be ill-disposed men; but about sixty per cent. were those who had gone home on furlough,

sick, and being careless about reporting at the expiration of their time, knowing they would be marked as deserters, continued their absence. Here, as well as at the Central Guard-house, many services have been held, and much reading distributed.

At the Old Capitol and Carroll Prisons, on Capitol Hill, there are usually confined as prisoners of war, and disloyal or secesh citizens, about one thousand men. There is a hospital in the Old Capitol, where about twenty or thirty patients are usually under treatment. Standing permission is given the missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association, by General Martindale, to hold religious services, and to distribute Bibles and Testaments, and other religious reading, among the prisoners.

The Soldiers' Retreat, near the Baltimore depot, consists of four large barracks, capable of accommodating from three thousand to four thousand men, besides an extensive eating-hall, where at least six hundred men can dine at once. This may be considered as a great military hotel, with the exception of some luxuries, where soldiers coming to or going from the army, or when being transported from one point in the army to another, and where convalescents going from the various hospitals to Convalescent Camp, halt for a night to rest and refresh themselves; sometimes, however, stopping but a few hours, and at other times, perhaps, two or three days, before being ordered away. The entire number stopping at the Rest during the year 1863 was 202,442 men, of whom more than 36,000 were convalescents. About 37,000 were homeward bound, and more than 86,000 were going to the field. Here, almost every evening in the year, a meeting can be held, with from fifty to five hundred or a thousand men, many of whom are exceedingly glad to hear the Gospel preached, and to receive Testaments and other reading.

Several most interesting cases of awakening and conversion have occurred at this place, as reported by the missionary of the Association, one or two of which may be mentioned. One evening, in the latter part of 1862, after a religious address and exhortation, a soldier of the one hundred and seventy-seventh Pennsylvania came to the missionary, threw his arms around his neck, and, weeping like a child, begged to be baptized. The missionary, on inquiring into his condition, learned that this soldier and his wife, on parting, had covenanted together to serve God

and unite with his people; but he had not till then taken up his cross openly to follow Christ. He had not experienced religion, but was most anxious to obtain it. Some praying soldiers in the regiment were found. Prayer was offered, repentance unto life was given, and peace received. By this time others became interested, and when they were exhorted to flee from the wrath to come, and enlist with this, their comrade, in the army of the Lord, two or three others came to the altar for prayers, resolving to live a different life. Holy baptism was administered to this young Christian soldier, and he went on his way rejoicing.

Months after this, when this regiment was stopping again at the Rest, this soldier recognized the missionary, came to him, and reminded him of the exercises at that place the year before, and said he was still striving to be faithful; that one of those who sought the Saviour at the same time had died in hospital at the front, but he thought he had gone safely, as it was his custom to pray night and morning.

The Quartermaster's men alone remain to be mentioned, not, however, the least interesting.

Of these, there are about ten thousand in the city of Washington alone, without a chaplain, or any church in particular, to look after their spiritual wants. About three thousand of these army auxiliaries are teamsters, encamped in the outskirts of the city, one camp alone containing from one thousand to twelve hundred men, with stables for all their horses, and tents and huts, or shanties, for themselves. In one of the large mess-houses at this point, which will comfortably seat three hundred men, the missionary holds regular Sabbath services, large numbers attending, the superintendent himself joining in the congregation, and co-operating heartily in sustaining the meetings. A more attentive congregation cannot be found, nearly every man kneeling in the time of prayer.

In another part of the suburbs is a camp of from two hundred to three hundred ambulance-drivers, where the missionary for several months first held religious services; and when his attention was called to the more pressing demands of the Dismounted Camp, the meetings were continued under the auspices of the Christian Commission.

About a thousand of the Quartermaster's men are mechanics,

wheelwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., having large mess-houses, within a few yards of each other, on the corners of F, G, and Twenty-first Streets. Formerly, the missionary used to hold the meetings in these different mess-houses by rotation; now they are held regularly in the carpenters' mess-room. This will seat about three hundred men, is comfortably warmed, and brilliantly lighted with gas for evening service. Here some of the mechanics often take part in the social meetings, and the gracious presence of the Master is frequently manifested among them. Souls have been converted and reclaimed here.

The balance, principally in the Quartermaster's department, is composed of hostlers, of whom there are over thirteen hundred, laborers, of whom there are also more than thirteen hundred, watchmen, cooks, saddlers, messengers, wagon-masters, &c. &c., with whom it is not always convenient to hold service. There are also some two hundred or three hundred employed in the Government bakery, among whom meetings have been held. They are largely Germans.

The Quartermaster's Hospital is an important institution in this department. This is supported by a small percentage on the wages of the entire class, about one per cent. The number of sick, wounded, and injured by various accidents, is usually about one hundred. The hospital has been removed from the small buildings on Seventeenth Street to the more commodious quarters of a vacated Government hospital, called St. Aloysius. This has been regularly visited both by the missionary and the delegates of the Commission. Here the various precious fruits of the Gospel have been witnessed from week to week.

It would be desirable to speak more particularly of the interesting meetings now being held in the camp of the Fourteenth New Hampshire Regiment of guards, and at Camp Barry, a large artillery camp of instruction, where there are twelve or more batteries, numbering over twelve hundred men; at the Mission Chapel, also, built by the Young Men's Christian Association, where the Ninth Regiment of the Invalid Corps, on guard duty, are regularly worshipping, and at other places, especially at the forts; but the length to which this report has already grown forbids it.



To the great credit of superintendents and commanding officers, it should be recorded that the kindest disposition to assist and co-operate in opening and preparing the way for religious services, and the distribution of reading among their men, has generally been manifested.

There seems, if possible, a more urgent necessity for putting forth vigorous Christian efforts in behalf of these multitudes about the city, than for the troops in the field. Here these men are not only away from the restraining influences of church and home, but they are actually exposed to temptations and vices of the most perilous kind. It is said that thousands of disreputable females infest the capital. Added to all this, the city is filled with drinking and gambling saloons, besides some half dozen theatres, exerting all their ingenuity to draw men down the maelstrom of vice and iniquity, which are but gilded passages to the region of final despair.

The principal counteracting influence upon these thousands by a general organized missionary agency, it is believed, is exerted by the United States Christian Commission and the Young Men's Christian Association of the city.

From the want of statistics, it is impossible to report the exact number of meetings held or distributions made by the delegates in and about the city. It is known, however, that they have performed much labor in cordial co-operation with the city missionary, and under the direction of the army committee and agent of the Commission visiting the forts, prisons, guards, quartermaster's men, &c. &c.

The following statistics, copied from the "First Annual Report," made November 16, 1863, by the missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association, may give some idea, so far as figures can show, of the work of the Association in this vast mission field.

The whole amount of distributions for the year has been as follows: English Testaments, 16,497; German Testaments, 4303; French, 19; Spanish, 1; Danish, 1; English Bibles, 25; making a total of 20,846 copies of the Holy Scriptures. Papers, mostly religious, 68,657; soldiers' hymn-books, 7840; soldiers' books, 6900; pamphlets, 634; pages of tracts, 1,642,382.

Number of religious services held, at which the greater part of this reading has been distributed, 618; number of those who have given evidence of conversion, of being reclaimed, and of desiring religion, about 100 souls. Miles travelled, 2421.

I must not close this report without acknowledging my great indebtedness to the Government for furnishing ambulance and driver, and other means of transportation where the condition of the public service would permit, to the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company, for pass granted for the season; to the American Bible Society for abundant supplies of the Holy Scriptures; to the New York and Boston Tract Societies, and especially to the United States Christian Commission, for large stores of valuable reading; but, above all, to the blessing of God, who alone can give efficiency to the instrumentalities employed, and to whom be all the glory.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. P. PITCHER,

Missionary Young Men's Christian Association.

#### **Four Months in Camp Convalescent. By Rev. C. P. Lyford.**

No more important field has been occupied by the Christian Commission than this camp. The large number of men thrown together here—at first ranging from fifteen to twenty thousand, though the number was considerably reduced after the removal of the camp from its old to its new location—the character of the men, convalescents, paroled prisoners, stragglers, &c., from and constantly going to every regiment in the service, yet remaining long enough to receive greater benefit by successive influences and labors; their actual condition, which at first was most deplorable,—these, with many other circumstances, rendered it one of the most inviting and promising fields for missionary and benevolent enterprise that has been reached by this organization. The suffering relieved and the amount of good done by the delegates, previous to the arrival of the permanent agent, will never be fully known till the “day of eternity;” but it was immense.

On the 18th of March, 1863, the permanent agent arrived in the camp with his wife, and immediately entered upon his duties. Religious services were held in the chapel tent, which

was found to be altogether too small to accommodate the crowds that were disposed to attend. The building of the chapel itself was soon commenced, and in a few weeks completed. Though it would contain many hundreds, it was yet too small, and after it had been packed to its utmost capacity, the men would still gather around the doors and windows, as long as they could get within hearing to listen to the word of life. As soon as the dry summer weather came on, the preaching service was held in the open air, seats being arranged in the beautiful pine grove around the chapel, and here thousands heard the Gospel daily. When autumn came again, the chapel had been enlarged so as to accommodate from ten to twelve hundred men.

We shall not be able to state anything like the exact amount of labor performed during our four months' stay in this delightful place. Three meetings were held every day, *without exception*; prayer-meeting in the morning, inquiry or class meeting in the afternoon, and preaching every evening except Saturday, when a general experience-meeting was substituted.

This does not include the services that were constantly held in the hospital during the week and on the Sabbath; and in addition to it all was the distribution of stores and immense quantities of reading matter, personal conversation and prayer with men in the barracks and hospital, burial of the dead, Bible classes, temperance meetings, &c. &c. Had it not been that I was assisted by so many and such excellent delegates, my feeble health would have failed long before it did. THE FRUITS of this work must also remain in great part unknown till "angels shout the harvest home;" and yet many of these fruits appeared to cheer and encourage us. We ever felt, as did also the men, that at each meeting some were hearing the Gospel that would never hear it again; that some were going direct from *that* meeting to the eternal world, and a great solemnity always pervaded our congregations. The first meeting that we held, four men arose for prayers; the next, ten; and then the number rapidly increased; and while there, we do not know that a single day passed without MANY happy conversions to God. The number of *earnest, deeply penitent* seekers ranged all the way from five to one hundred and twenty-five *every night*, with a good proportion converted daily. But how many carried their convictions

with them, and subsequently found Jesus; how many dying on the field of battle remembered how at Camp Convalescent they had been pointed to Christ, and *then* "looked and lived," can never be known in this life. The most interesting cases were constantly occurring. Infidels were converted; drunkards were saved; backsliders were reclaimed; husbands, whose wives were praying for their salvation, sent home the glad tidings that at last they were ready to join them in Christian life. The heart of many an anxious mother was made joyful by the news that her dear son, who was lost, had been found; who was dead, had • been made alive. The men constantly going to their regiments, and to different parts of the country, carried the fire with them, and other revival flames were kindled, and throughout the whole land the results of this glorious work appear.

I wish here to add, that in passing through Pennsylvania, in all the large towns where portions of the Invalid Corps are stationed, men have hailed me on the streets, or have come to me at the close of the meetings, who had been converted at Camp Convalescent, and *who were living faithful, consistent Christian lives*. In addition to the spiritual work, the naked were clothed, the hungry fed, the sick and wounded were ministered unto. Many a poor fellow was helped out of his difficulties, correspondence was carried on for the men with their families, and communication was kept up with the loved ones at home.

I only regret that my health would not permit me to remain in this place, which by the grace of God and the transforming power of the Gospel had been rendered so heavenly in its character and enjoyments.

Sweet will be the memory of it in a dying hour, and through eternity I shall praise God for my sojourn there, which with Prof. Barrowes, who was with me one month, I can pronounce "the sunniest part of my life."

**HARRISBURG COMMITTEE.**

HARRISBURG, January 1st, 1864

GEO. II. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR BROTHER: The annual report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, auxiliary to the Central Committee, is a very unsatisfactory one, owing mainly to the fact that no record has been kept of a large amount of the labors performed. During the entire year, we have been permitted to co-operate with a large band of noble and self-denying women, whose attentions to the sick and wounded in our several hospitals, and to the wounded who were passing through our city to hospitals at New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, cannot be too highly commended. A large part of the supplies distributed to the hospitals by the committee was intrusted to them, as they had appointed special committees for each hospital, who visited them regularly, ministering most faithfully to the wants of the inmates, and in several cases taking the sick or wounded to their own homes. We have had several hospitals within and near the city, some of them continuing in existence but four or five months, others during the year.

Early after their establishment, the General Government appointed two chaplains, Rev. Messrs. Hatton and Hindshaw, to labor among them and in the camp in the vicinity. Rev. Mr. Hatton still continues in his position. These brethren have been faithful and laborious in their care of the soldiers, and we have deemed it our duty to co-operate with them. Most of the books, tracts, and papers distributed by the Committee have been placed in their hands, and generally the care of the religious meetings has been left with them. It would add to the interest of this report, if we could give you an account of the various religious meetings secured by the Committee in the hospitals and camps; but no record has been kept.

During the entire year, there have been camps of soldiers in the vicinity. The number of men here at present is very small; but early in the year and through midsummer, the number was very large. Probably not less than fifty to sixty thousand men have camped here for a shorter or longer time during the year.

Efforts have been made by the Committee and others to supply these camps with religious services and reading matter, Testaments, tracts, and papers. The pressure upon us at the time of the rebel invasion, and immediately subsequent to the battle of Gettysburg, was very great, and could not have been met without the aid received by the presence of several delegates of the Christian Commission sent from Philadelphia, whose labors were principally devoted to Camp Curtin and the supply of hospitals here and at Gettysburg. A report of their labors has doubtless been furnished. With the aid of the large tent of the Commission, which was erected at Camp Curtin, daily religious services were held until the camp was vacated, which were conducted with marked interest and good results. In the camp of the Invalid Corps, about two miles east of the city, religious reading has been distributed, preaching by the pastors of our churches secured, and the hospital supplied with articles greatly needed. The camp was removed some two months ago.

Four public meetings have been held during the year, three of them in the city, and one in New Cumberland, a small town across the river. These meetings have all been largely attended. The last one, at which addresses were made by Messrs. Patterson and Lyford, was very enthusiastic. The largest church in the city was wholly unable to accommodate the multitude who sought a place within it. Governor Curtin presided, with that dignity which characterizes him, and made an eloquent address, fully commending the Commission to the public favor. Our first public meeting was very large and successful. It was addressed by Rev. Messrs. Reed and Miggins, Hon. H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, and G. H. Stuart, Esq. The third public meeting was addressed by the clergymen of our own city.

The amount of money contributed to the Committee during the year, is \$2367 51. Of this amount, \$2120 15 was sent to the Committee in Philadelphia; the remainder, \$247 36, was employed in our local work.

One member of our association, Mr. Robert McElwee, labored most faithfully for some weeks at Camp Curtin in connection with the tent movement, giving his whole time cheerfully and gratuitously. As he was in our own midst, no commission was issued to him. But three commissions have been issued during

the year. Two of the Committee, Messrs. Kelker and Robinson, visited the hospitals at Gettysburg as delegates, and the latter visited the hospital at Shippensburg, leaving much-needed supplies, and also spent a month, immediately subsequent to the battle of Chickamauga, in a visit to the Army of the Cumberland. His experience in the hospitals at Nashville, Tennessee, Stevenson, Alabama, Cowan, Tennessee, and at Chattanooga, and his trial of army life in a week's journey with a supply train through the valleys and over the mountains of Southern Tennessee, have greatly deepened his conviction of the immense value of the Commission to the Army of the Union.

In conclusion, the Committee would express their own deep interest in the work of the Commission, and their regrets that they have not been able to do much more than has been done. Let us assure you that the Commission has the prayers and warm sympathies not only of ourselves, but of the Christian people of this city.

T. H. ROBINSON,  
Chairman of Committee.

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### PITTSBURG COMMITTEE.

The Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania was organized April 6th, 1863. Prior to that time, the only association which had been regularly and systematically forwarding hospital stores to the army, was the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee, appointed by the citizens of Pittsburg at a meeting held in August, 1861. Its proper duty was the forwarding of refreshments for all regiments or companies passing through the city to or from the seat of war. After the reception from several hospitals of pressing appeals for stores, the Committee opened depots for receiving articles for the sick and wounded soldiers, and sent or appointed agents at various points to attend to the proper distribution of the goods donated. Depending entirely on the free will offerings of the people, the contributions poured in so rapidly and continuously that goods, amounting in value to sixty thousand dollars, were forwarded and distributed by the Subsistence Committee between January, 1862, and April, 1863.

After a meeting held by George H. Stuart, Esq., and others, the Subsistence Committee resolved to transfer its store-room and stores on hand to the United States Christian Commission, and, while not neglecting its legitimate work of feeding the soldiers, to unite heartily with the national organization in its great work.

At a meeting of ministers and members of the various denominations, held in the Second Presbyterian Church, April 6, 1863, the *Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania* was organized, and the following officers elected :

President, REV. HERRICK JOHNSON.

Chairman of Executive Committee, HON. ROBERT McKNIGHT.

Secretary, ROBERT C. FOLLEN.

Treasurer, JOSEPH ALBREE.

Receiver, WILLIAM P. WEYMAN.

The first public meeting was held on the evening of April 16, 1863, at which time the new committee began to work in connection with the United States Christian Commission. The results of its operations during the last nine months may be briefly summed up as follows :

Cash contributions received, -	-	-	-	-	\$21,348 81
Estimated value of stores donated, -	-	-	-	-	45,708 79
Estimated value of stores sent to the armies, -	-	-	-	-	54,079 01
Estimated value of reading matter sent to the armies,					4,635 29

### Delegates.

We have sent seventy-two delegates to the armies, earnest, faithful men, who have often, at great personal inconvenience, devoted their time and talents to the relief of the suffering. We have, in a great measure, depended on presbyteries, conferences, and other church councils, to appoint delegates to represent them in this department of Christian labor. Many have entered heartily into the work, and have, at their quarterly meetings, taken measures to keep one or two representatives constantly in the field. Their example is worthy of imitation.

### Labor in the Home Field.

Our opportunities for Christian labor in the home field have been limited ; but we have, in connection with the Subsistence



Committee, distributed a large amount of religious reading matter to troops passing through the city. At the Soldiers' Home, religious services and prayer-meetings are held regularly by our returned delegates.

During the summer and autumn, two delegates were stationed at Camp Copeland, about eight miles from the city. Prayer-meetings were held every evening, and Testaments and tracts distributed. Mr. Wallace Radcliffe reports that, by God's blessing on the labors, many were awakened, and some converted. On one occasion, a very interesting meeting was held in the Girard House by its inmates. The delegate had been distributing Testaments and hymn-books among them, and had gone to his tent. Soon after, the sergeant of the guard came to him, exclaiming, "Chaplain, I guess there's no use of a guard down there to-night; the boys have all been singing and praying all the evening."

#### **The Pittsburg Subsistence Committee.**

Of the valuable aid rendered by the ladies of the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee, we cannot speak in too unqualified terms of praise. Already engaged in arduous and painstaking effort in the department of subsistence, taking care that no soldier should pass through the city at any hour of the day or night without being offered a wholesome meal, they have yet found time, with busy hands and warm hearts, to do incalculable service in behalf of the United States Christian Commission. With rare assiduity and unaffected cheerfulness, they have responded to every call made upon them, often generously pledging themselves to duties demanding no trifling self-denial for their faithful and effective discharge. If that womanhood is the richest which is oftenest engaged in beneficent tasks, and quickest to do where the doing is likely to go untrumpeted, then are the ladies of the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee "affluent with more than the matter of barbaric pearls and gold." They are busy, bustling Marthas, each with Mary's loving heart.

## CINCINNATI COMMITTEE.

GEO. H. STUART, Esq.,

Chairman United States Christian Commission.

We have the profound satisfaction to record and report that the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Christian Commission has thus far been highly favored of God. It is now, at the close of the year, only about six months since it was formed. During this time, all the difficulties incident to the organization and early progress of a great work have been overcome, our field principles and plans thoroughly defined, our relations to the central office and various branches of the Commission settled, the magnitude of our undertaking measured, the public informed and enlisted, and the churches and people have shown a remarkable readiness to sustain us in measures far more enlarged and comprehensive than we dared at first to entertain.

Considerable embarrassment was caused during the first four months for want of suitable central headquarters. Happily this was obviated in November by a warm welcome, rent free, to the present commodious rooms on Vine Street, from our chairman, in behalf of himself and his partner in business. With the change of our quarters commenced also a change of our policy in regard to hospital stores. Experience had abundantly shown the necessity to have our delegates well supplied with the means of meeting the bodily wants of our brave and suffering men whilst endeavoring to minister to their spiritual well-being. Observation led to the conviction, that however much the people might give to us for this purpose, it would not take from their benefactions through other channels; but would be all clear gain, if indeed it did not, by increase of interest, tend to swell still more the other streams of beneficence to the soldiers.

The importance of having our supplies under our own control, to send when and where it was necessary to meet the demands of our work, and be ready, like our *minute men*, at a minute's warning, without circumlocution, pressed also upon us. Accordingly we opened our doors to receive such hospital stores as might come in, and almost without an appeal the amount sent

during the five or six closing weeks of the year, is not far from thirty thousand dollars in value.

The demand for Western family religious papers in our Western military departments, has induced us to send large numbers of them from week to week to the soldiers.

The Cincinnati Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, through Rev. Bishop, has generously given us the services of Rev. J. F. Loyd, who has done much by his wisdom, energy, and efficiency, both in his own personal work and in the direction of others, first at Nashville and now at Chattanooga, for the present and eternal good of our noble men of the army. Much has also been accomplished in the way of adding books, tracts, and stationery from our Western sources of supply to the large amount received and sent forward from the East. And opportunity has been offered to Western ministers and earnest Christian workers to go forth as delegates, which they have gladly embraced, until the number sent already from this office, during these few weeks, is forty-eight.

The accompanying communication from our first secretary, who has himself gone repeatedly to the army in times of greatest emergency, and also traversed the West extensively to awaken interest for our work, will give a vivid idea of the inestimable worth to our soldiers in the field of the delegate work of the Christian Commission.

FROM THE REV. B. W. CHIDLAW.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,

President United States Christian Commission.

The Cincinnati Branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized early last summer. At our first public meeting, General Burnside favored us with an address, and our friends gave us the first collection in behalf of the Commission. Since that time, we have received \$21,250 in cash, besides a large amount of stores and publications. We have sent forty-eight delegates to the field, the camp, and the hospitals of the armies of Generals Grant and Burnside. Thirty-six are now at work for Christ and our country. During the year, I travelled eighteen thousand six hundred miles, and made one hundred and

fifty addresses in behalf of the Commission. My labors have extended into Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. I have been always welcomed by officers and privates, and my labors gratefully appreciated. In his tent, or lingering on his cot, the soldier, sick or well, gladly received the benefactions of friends at home, and generally, with evident interest, heard my Gospel messages.

Through the kindness of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, I was favored with a free passage on the Sanitary steamer Dunlieth from Cincinnati to Young's Point, Louisiana, and with an abundant supply of stores, so that I might efficiently minister to the temporal as well as the spiritual wants of our brave defenders on duty in forts, camps, and on our gun-boats, from Cairo, Illinois, to Vicksburg, Mississippi. During this trip, I distributed a large amount of reading matter, preached some thirty times, and conversed with hundreds of our soldiers and sailors.

On a gunboat, below Cairo, an officer welcomed my visit most cordially, saying, "You are the first minister that has stood on our deck with reading matter for our crew, and words of cheer for us all." On another, a fine-looking youth, neat and trim, in his blue jacket, met me at the gangway with an earnest salutation, adding, "You used to address our Sabbath-school at home. I am so glad to see you." He aided me to find my way over the vessel while distributing books, and kindly introduced me to many of his companions. In the camps around Memphis, and the hospitals in the city, I found abundant opportunities of usefulness. At that time, the work was great and the laborers few. Now the Christian Commission has a strong foothold, and a bright record of extended labor and abundant usefulness.

Descending the Mississippi, on the deserted cotton-fields of Louisiana, in long lines of encampments among the heroes that captured Vicksburg, with my fellow-laborers, Burnell of Wisconsin, and Reynolds of Illinois, I labored in word and deed with much encouragement. On the floating hospital, moored near Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, with its seven hundred and sixty sick and languishing patients, I found many hands to receive our gifts, and many ears open to hear the glorious Gospel of the Son of God. One poor fellow, near the portals of death,

when I asked him how he was, exclaimed, with a genial smile and a holy ecstasy, "*In Christ, I am happy day and night. All is well.*" In a few days, as we were bearing him on our boat towards his Northern home, he died in great peace; and now the mortal remains of Albert Cunningham rest with his kindred in a beautiful graveyard in Central Ohio.

At the Van Buren Convalescent Hospital, a few miles below, occupying a planter's residence, and the lovely lawn surrounding it, where the pride of China and the magnolia were blooming and the mocking-birds nestled, we found eighteen hundred men glad to see "somebody from home," anxious to receive "something to read," and ready to hear our words of encouragement and Christian instruction. In what was once a "negro quarter," we found a band of pious soldiers holding a prayer-meeting. Seeing the grace of God to these "blue-coat" brethren, I was truly glad, and "exhorted them all that, with purpose of heart, they would cleave unto the Lord." Another "quarter" was occupied by colored people. I entered and said to them I only wished to see the "slave quarters." An intelligent-looking man said, "Lor, massa, dis is not a slave-quarter any more; we be all free, bless de Lord." The treason of their masters removed their chains and gave them freedom. Quite a number of "freedmen" gathered around me, and on the sill of the door I preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection; and on the sod in front we knelt in prayer with these sable sons of Ethiopia, commending them to the God of all grace and consolation.

Immediately after the battle of Chickamauga, with thirteen other delegates I left Cincinnati for the scenes of carnage and of suffering. Travelling four hundred and sixty miles, I reached Stevenson, Alabama, on the 25th of September. Here I met Brothers Parsons and Harvey supplying a train of wounded soldiers with bread and coffee. At once I was welcomed as a helper in this important work of relief. The poor fellows had made their way, as best they could, from Chattanooga to Bridgeport; thence, by the cars thirteen miles, to this place. Exhausted and hungry, faint and weary, they needed refreshments. Some two thousand loaves of excellent bread, and a bountiful supply of coffee, hot and good, these wounded men, passing through Stevenson,

received from the hands of the delegates of the Christian Commission, the supplies being furnished by the Government. In our chapel, we held religious services twice a day, generally very well attended. Several of the soldiers became deeply convicted of sin, and earnestly inquired what they must do to be saved. Blessed privilege, even amid the fearful realities of war, to point them to the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." In our chapel I have seen from thirty to fifty soldiers attentively reading, or diligent in writing to their friends at home.

In the field hospitals near Stevenson, we found two thousand sick and wounded men. Here we distributed sanitary stores, which were much needed and gratefully received. From tent to tent we visited the uncomplaining sufferers, doing good, as God enabled us, to their souls and to their bodies. The large quantity of stationery which we distributed, met a very pressing want, and enabled hundreds to write to their anxious relatives and friends at home. While preaching a funeral sermon in one of our hospitals, I observed one of my hearers, who was lying on a pallet of straw, evidently drawing near to death, very much interested; failing to repress his emotions, bringing his attenuated hands together, he exclaimed, "*Glory be to God for the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ.*" At the close of our service, I approached the poor sufferer and asked him if he loved Jesus Christ? With a heavenly sweetness of voice and a full heart, he replied, "*Oh, yes, and Jesus loves me.*" To this dying soldier death had no sting, the grave no gloom—all was bright beyond. Alas! all our brave men are not the friends of Christ. Multitudes are hardened in sin, reckless and indifferent to the claims of God and eternity. In the tent, the camp, the hospital, we meet with abounding iniquity and irreligion. Too many of our brave men neglect the great salvation; yet we always found them accessible, easily impressed by kind words and good deeds. The prudent, earnest, faithful, Christ-like delegate, and the laborious chaplain, may go among them, "bearing precious seed, and shall return with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them." God bless the United States Christian Commission.

### LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE.

The beneficent work of the Christian Commission in Louisville, and the points of military operation further south, can be but partially exhibited by the statistical part of our report. The most interesting results, indeed, of all Christian efforts are beyond the power of numbers to represent.

Previous to May, 1863, the operations of the Commission here were largely directed from the central office. Messrs. Hughes and Parkhill very kindly forwarded the supplies sent for the Army of the Cumberland, and J. E. Hardy, Esq., kept the reading matter sent for use here in a part of his store, from which it was taken for distribution by the chaplains and other friends of the soldier.

In the month of May, an office was opened here, mainly through the agency of Rev. E. P. Smith, field agent of the Christian Commission for the Army of the Cumberland, and Isaac Russell, Esq., of Louisville, was solicited to become field agent. He accepted the trust, and has since devoted his time and energies to the good work.

About this time delegates of the Commission began to arrive in considerable numbers on their way to the front. All were necessarily here for a short time, and some spent nearly their whole term of service in the various hospitals, barracks, and camps in this city and vicinity. In these labors the delegates were greatly aided and directed by hospital chaplains W. Holman and W. W. Meech, especially the latter, who, from his familiarity with all the hospitals and other places for labor, was able to introduce them to their work without the delay of a reconnoissance. Four other chaplains were sent to the hospitals of Louisville in July, all of whom have received the delegates most kindly, and given them great facilities for success in their work. Previous to May, the chaplains, with all the help they could secure, were able to supply the hospitals with preaching on the Lord's day only in part; and Chaplain Meech, as often as he could, held a religious service at the Exchange Barracks in the evening, and supplied the destitute with Testaments. But as soon as our delegates came to their assistance, more Sunday

services were held, with acceptance, and meetings every night, in the barracks, attended by the special tokens of God's favor. These meetings were held every night, with scarce an exception, from the 12th of May till the 25th of August. The absence of help temporarily suspended them; but in September, they were resumed again, attended with special encouragements. And these meetings still continue to be held as often as our delegates are able to attend them. The interest was so great at one time, the soldiers tried to keep up a meeting for themselves when there was no one to preach to them. Eternity alone can reveal the good done by the delegates of the Commission, in holding meetings, visiting the sick, to converse and pray with them, writing letters to friends, and doing a nameless variety of things for the benefit of our soldiers.

Delegates have visited and labored at Columbia, Lebanon, Munfordville, Glasgow, Lexington, Covington, Newport, Camp Nelson, and at many intermediate points, with great acceptance. Camp Nelson is a place of more than ordinary importance for the occupancy of the Commission. Among the points of greatest interest attended to in this city and vicinity, have been the several barracks and camps in and around us.

In the camp of the Fourth Tennessee Infantry, a Sunday-school was organized and continued during its stay. Something was also done towards teaching a number of these refugees to read the word of God, and all again had opportunities of hearing a loyal and faithful exhibition of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

Among the refugees from East Tennessee whom we met in the Fourth Regiment East Tennessee Volunteers, were Isaac Seaton and his two sons. They had been conscripted by the rebels, and, to keep out of the army, were secreted for several months. For refusing to tell where his sons were, and because he went to a place to help raise "the Flag of our Union," he was taken from his house at a late hour in the night by soldiers, under the guidance of a Secession neighbor, and hung three times in succession till nearly dead. He showed the marks on his hands and wrists of the cord that bound him during this suffering three months after. Failing to get what information they desired, they started with him as a prisoner; but he escaped



in a thicket with their shots flying by him, and ultimately reached this place, with his sons and others, where they enlisted in the Union army, to go back and fight for their homes and freedom in them. The attention of your agent was called to their condition by Chaplain Meech, who went with him and saw to their being supplied with Testaments and papers, and preached the first sermon to them many had heard for a year and a half.

Various camps of infantry, cavalry, artillery, and the camp of the Invalid Corps, have received the services of the delegates of the Commission with profit. The same is also true to a great extent of passing regiments. While they were stopping for refreshments, advantage was taken of the occasion to furnish a tract, paper, or small book for the knapsack, accompanied with a kind word, all of which were most acceptable. When the regiments from the Army of the Potomac were passing through this place in September last, a constant look-out was maintained. One delegate heard a regiment passing at or near midnight, and arose from his weary cot to go a mile and greet them with words of cheer and encouragement, and to give them some of our interesting publications, to enlighten their minds when the morning light should enable them to peruse them.

The agency of the Commission has rendered all the aid in its power to friends seeking sick relatives, by securing passes for them when possible, and personally administering both material and spiritual comfort, and has often received the hearty thanks of the anxious and afflicted ones. In one instance your agent met at the railroad depot a very sick man, accompanied him to the hospital, and then secured an interview for him with his loving wife, whom he had not seen for nearly a year. As soon as she saw her husband, she was convinced his earthly sojourn was short. In a large ward of the hospital, surrounded by the sick, they watched beside his cot till the dawning of a new day, when permission from the proper authority was procured to take him to a private residence. To this he was borne on a litter, where, with a relative of his wife, your agent rendered all possible assistance till he died, about two days after, and was removed to his early home for burial.

In view of the varied wants of the Christian Commission, your Committee has deemed it wise to issue a circular, setting

forth its work and necessities, accompanied by such facts as would impress the people of the State with its importance and the feasibility of its plan of operations. Such a circular has been prepared, and is expected to secure money and stores for your treasury and men for your work. Your agent has visited many parts of the State, conversed with persons of influence acquainted with the different neighborhoods around them, and, by the diffusion of information in regard to the Commission, has prepared the way for liberal contributions to its treasury.

Free access has been given our delegates to all the hospitals, camps, and barracks of the city and vicinity; and they have preached, conversed, and prayed with the sick and dying, written letters for them and their friends, and distributed our publications freely among them. A very interesting state of religious interest has resulted in some instances. In one, a delegate conversed and prayed with a sick man, who expressed hope in the Saviour at the conclusion of the prayer, and died only two days after, rejoicing in the Lord.

Many of the poor and unfortunate refugees from Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, who had lost almost everything, reached this city, where they have been temporarily provided for. Your agency has done what it could by visiting their sick, attending their funerals, holding religious services with them, furnishing Testaments to such as could read, and primers and Sunday-school papers to the children.

The numerous rebel prisoners confined in the military prison here, and being sent hence to Camp Chase and other points, have found a place in the labors of the Commission. The Testaments, tracts, and clothing that have been furnished them, have been thankfully received.

It affords us great pleasure to acknowledge the kind attentions of Dr. T. S. Bell whenever called to visit sick delegates. The Rev. Henry Powers, a delegate of the Commission, was sick here for several weeks, and a part of the time dangerously ill. Mr. J. M. Stevens and his most estimable lady took him home to their house, and, like the Good Samaritan, were unremitting in the kindest attentions to him, gratuitously bestowed, till he was restored to health. Mr. Maull, also, was untiring in kind attentions to Mr. Powers.

On Thanksgiving day a sumptuous dinner was provided for some of the hospitals by the loyal ladies and friends of the soldiers, and in others religious services were held without an unusual dinner. As Christmas approached, a movement was made to secure a generous dinner for the twenty hospitals, soldiers' home barracks, and camps, in the city and vicinity. The response was most praiseworthy. A superabundance of everything needful was provided, and served chiefly by the ladies, whose very presence and kindness cheered the hearts of our noble soldiers beyond the power of expression. The tables groaned under the pressure of good things provided, when the long line of soldiers marched up to the assault on their delicious contents. A few appropriate remarks were made, and the chaplains asked God's blessing on all. Then the ladies vied with each other in serving them, as they had first served the sicker patients in the wards, until, in the gladness of the hour, those who had endured hardness as good soldiers for their country forgot their hardships. This complete demonstration of kind care and sympathy can never be forgotten by our noble soldiers, who were made so happy by it. One hospital and camp were reserved for a new-year's dinner of the same character.

Our relations to the Sanitary Commission have been of a most kind and pleasant character. They have received at their store-rooms and forwarded all supplies destined for Nashville and points beyond, with a degree of promptness truly commendable. The work of the two Commissions has thus been blended, like the union of the body and soul, for which they labor.

It is gratifying to us to be able to acknowledge many favors at the hands of the Adams' Express Company, which has taken many boxes and bundles free to the soldiers in all parts of the State. The railroads to and from this city have very cheerfully passed the delegates free of charge, and many of our stores. All have our warmest thanks, which are especially due to those of Kentucky. We also take pleasure in expressing our kindest regards to the line of mail-boats which have carried our delegates to and from Cincinnati at reduced fare, as we do to all who have in any way aided us in the great and noble work God has enabled us thus far to accomplish. Hoping for the continued favor of all those who have aided us, and especially

for the Divine blessing, that makes rich, and adds no sorrow, we here close our report of the operations of the year of our Lord 1863.

ISAAC RUSSELL,  
For the Committee.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 31, 1863.

### Obituary Note.

Since closing the report of our operations during the year 1863, and before we had time to mail the report to you at the central office, it has pleased the Lord to call to higher service our most esteemed and now lamented brother, Thomas Quigley, Esq., the efficient Treasurer of this branch of the Christian Commission. He departed this life on the second day of January, 1864, at the age of sixty-four years, having for many years so honored a Christian profession as to secure the highest regard of all who knew him. Words fail to express the loss sustained by us and a large circle of bereaved friends, to whom we give assurance of our sympathy and prayers. May his mantle fall on another, to glorify God with a spirit of equal devotion to his cause.

### DEATH OF THOMAS QUIGLEY, ESQ.

The hearts of this community were painfully and suddenly afflicted yesterday morning in hearing of the death of the venerable and much-loved Thomas Quigley, Esq. He was so regular in all his habits, that no one in looking at him had a thought of his death to cross his mind. We saw him on Saturday morning, and very little expected then to hear that he had to be carried home that day a sufferer from an attack of paralysis. Mr. Quigley was one of the best citizens of Kentucky. He was quiet, unassuming, unobtrusive, yet he was one of the most public-spirited men in the State. He was always alive to everything that could promote the prosperity or welfare of the people. The people owe to him a large portion of the gratitude that is due for the building and successful running of the Nashville Railroad. In all financial matters his name was a tower of strength. He was one of the best financiers that Kentucky has produced. Throughout the struggle against the rebellion, he has been one

of the most zealous and one of the most untiring of the friends of the Union. In all respects, Thomas Quigley was one of the best men we have ever known. It would be folly to attempt expressions of condolence toward the afflicted family, with any hope that their agonized hearts are now open to such expressions. The State and the city deeply, profoundly feel this irreparable loss. Time, the consoler, only can assuage this private and public sorrow.—*Journal*.

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### ST. LOUIS COMMITTEE.

#### Report of the St. Louis Branch of the United States Christian Commission for the Year 1863.

In reviewing the labors of the past year, we have much cause for gratitude. God has opened a wide door of usefulness, both here and in the Army of the Mississippi. We have not forgotten our sailors, or the "freedmen" who wear our national uniform.

The home work for the multitudes in our numerous hospitals, during the whole year, has been intensely interesting and very laborious. To care for and suitably minister to the wants of ten thousand men, has called for more labor than we have been able fully to meet. It was only a portion of the year that our hospitals were thus crowded.

Delegates from other States, the ladies of the Union Aid Society of this city, and members of this Commission, have done what they could to supplement the work of the chaplains, both in camp and hospitals, in ministering to the spiritual and temporal wants of our brave soldiers.

There have been sent out from our rooms and personally distributed three hundred and eighty-five thousand five hundred and eighty-eight publications, and three million one hundred and seventy four thousand five hundred and sixty-one pages of tracts, besides those sent to us by the parent society. Also, four thousand six hundred and ninety-two volumes of books have been collected by the field agent, as an incidental part of his work, and put in hospital wards for libraries. All of the prin-

cial hospitals in and near St. Louis have thus been furnished, to the great gratification of chaplains, surgeons in charge, and the edification of the patients. The soldiers are grateful for these tokens of interest in their mental and spiritual welfare.

At Jefferson Barracks, twelve miles south of the city, we have had, besides other voluntary laborers, a lady missionary, who has given her entire time to laboring directly with the soldiers in their wards, and tells us that *not a week has passed in that time but some have been hopefully converted*. Hundreds have, during the year, given satisfactory evidence of having passed from death unto life. Her labors show what a pious, self-denying lady can do for soldiers in hospitals.

Rev. A. S. Wells spent two months also at Jefferson Barracks, where there were eighteen hundred patients in the wards. He writes, "I have spent sixty-one days in your service, dividing my time between Lawson Hospital, New House of Refuge, General Hospital, and Benton and Jefferson Barracks. Six weeks of this time was devoted to Jefferson Barracks. During this time, I have delivered thirty-four Gospel sermons, have taken part in and conducted numerous prayer-meetings, conversed and prayed with a great number at their bedsides, have written letters for the soldiers, and distributed a large amount of reading matter.

At Benton Barracks there has been erected during the year, by the generous contributions of the citizens of St. Louis and army officers and soldiers, a commodious chapel, where daily services have been held. The religious interest at these barracks has been remarkable during the whole year. For a good portion of the year, two services a day were held by the chaplains and members of this Commission. It was not an unfrequent circumstance to have one thousand at these meetings. As many as seventy soldiers at one time have arisen for prayer. Hundreds have been hopefully converted. At times we have had at these barracks near eight thousand men, consisting of paroled soldiers, men for the navy, convalescents, sick and wounded from Arkansas and Mississippi. It has been "a field white for the harvest," accessible to the city by railroad; it has enjoyed the benefits of not only chaplains, but a large number of volunteer laborers from the Ladies' Union Aid Society, who have been

untiring and indefatigable in caring for and richly supplying the temporal and spiritual wants of these noble men.

Benton Barracks at this time is crowded with soldiers and patients, and still calls for unremitting exertions to benefit and bless the thousands coming and going from that place. God is still there by His Holy Spirit; the meetings are crowded. Another chapel is needed to accommodate the numbers who would gladly attend religious exercises. There are at the present time over two thousand "freedmen" wearing our uniform, and hundreds coming weekly; for their benefit much needs to be done, and will call for special attention from the Commission.

"Camp Jackson," near the city, has contained, during the year, many regiments, called in for the defence of the city and State from Arkansas, Minnesota, and other points, affording us an opportunity of resupplying them with Testaments and other reading matter, besides preaching to them. Some of these regiments had lost their chaplains, had not heard a sermon for nine months, had been at Pea Ridge, Helena, &c., and so constantly on the march that they had, during their hard service and severe hardships, lost their Testaments and all their reading matter. They duly appreciate the visits, preaching, and distribution. Several thousand Testaments, hymn-books, and papers were furnished them.

Pilot Knob, some ninety-five miles south of this, has afforded a fine field of labor. In the spring, some fifteen thousand infantry and artillery were collected there. After that, over ten thousand cavalry were collected there. Before the first were ordered to Vicksburg, they were very generally supplied with suitable books. The number of chaplains was very small. They had been out in the hardest service of the war. They seemed starved for reading matter. Gladly and very thankfully they received the books. Several of the regiments were urgent for preaching, saying they had not heard a sermon for a year. General Vandever, General Heron, and General Davidson gave their aid and influence to forward the distribution, and every facility for making it thorough. Chaplains, colonels, and captains welcomed the visits of the delegates and aided in the distributions.

At Memphis, reading rooms were opened by K. A. Burnell,

field agent, early last spring, from which have been issued a large amount of reading matter. Assisted by Rev. F. G. Ensign, daily prayer-meetings have been held. Brother Burnell, as field agent, and Rev. F. G. Ensign, as station agent, have looked after the soldiers in West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Brother Ensign, under date of December 7, writes: "The work is progressing better now than ever before. Our prayer-meetings are very interesting. There was a deeper interest manifested to-day than I have seen before. I was enabled to preach three times yesterday, and three times the Sabbath before. All the meetings were deeply interesting. Our room was pretty well filled at the afternoon service yesterday,—a much larger attendance than we have had at any previous meeting. I have learned that we must not be discouraged if often there are but few; for I see that almost every day half of those present are strangers. As soon as the soldiers from the hospitals are convalescent, and can get out and go about much, they are sent to the barracks or furloughed. This makes our meetings ever variable, but always interesting. I have no doubt there have been as many as two thousand different soldiers at our meetings within the past two months."

Our library at Memphis numbers about two hundred and fifty volumes, and is doing a good work. Nearly fifty volumes are out daily. The soldiers are careful of them, and return them.

K. A. Burnell has spent several weeks in the Northwest, addressing churches, raising funds, and awakening a deeper personal interest for the soldiers. His recent visit to Chattanooga, and six weeks' labor among the sick and wounded, after the battle of Chickamauga, were highly appreciated. Many will hold in lasting gratitude those timely counsels and self-denying labors.

His return to Memphis with the two ladies, to complete a more thorough organization of means to supply the spiritual wants of all who can be benefited at or near Memphis, is hailed with pleasure by all who are associated with him. He will look after the work of the Commission both at Vicksburg and Little Rock, and other points along the river.

At Vicksburg, such rooms have been opened and furnished as were necessary for delegates and the supply of the soldiers.



Little Rock has now its reading room, a daily prayer-meeting, and a good supply of books as libraries for the hospitals.

This Commission has sent Brother C. C. Thayer to co-operate with the chaplains at that point in supplying the twenty thousand soldiers there, and who can be reached from Little Rock. The chaplains passed a vote of thanks for our remembrances and supplies. They have a daily prayer-meeting at the reading rooms. The meetings are well attended, and the evidences of good are very encouraging.

Rev. P. Boughton, Secretary of the Seaman's Aid Society, has made one tour during December through to New Orleans, preaching and distributing at Cairo, Vicksburg, and other points, besides services on the boats, acting as a delegate, but not at the expense of the Commission.

For the soldiers on our Western frontier, over ten thousand in number, located at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Smith, and as far out as Fort Benton, arrangements have been made to send them regular supplies of reading matter. The recent visit of the field agent was welcomed by the people of St. Joseph, Leavenworth, and Lawrence, and liberal contributions given, although fire and sword had so terribly desolated their borders and nearly levelled Lawrence to the ground.

For the "freedmen," who have been gathering here since last August as soldiers, we are furnishing spelling-books for beginners, and Testaments and papers to such as can read. In the first regiment of eight hundred men, it was found that about one hundred of the number could read. Five hundred spelling-books were furnished to the others before they left for Helena, Arkansas. All who are accepted as officers for the colored regiments, have to give satisfactory evidence *that they neither drink nor swear, and to pledge themselves to become teachers to their men.* This is very hopeful, and full of promise for good. The teacher is thus constantly with his pupils. As a class, these officers are moral, and most of them religious men. If we will only furnish the books, these officers will become teachers, thus forming a vast peripatetic school for the million emerging from bondage. To the patriot and Christian, this is truly one of the signs of the times.

Our correspondence from officers in the army, from chaplains

and colaborers, is full of hope and encouragement. We are strengthened by such letters to press forward in the work. We give extracts from one sent by General Clinton B. Fiske, on the receipt of a package of reading matter :

“ Brother Smyth, of the St. Louis Branch Christian Commission, sent me a large lot of reading matter a few days ago. God bless the Christian Commission and all who carry the bread of life to the soldiers in camp and hospitals. Exhort all who love God to write, *write*, WRITE to them, to their fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers, and friends in the army, with earnest entreaty that they keep from every wicked thing when the host goeth forth against the enemy. Letters from home, *written in the proper spirit*, are *sermons*, that reach the heart and start the tear of penitence from many a wandering one.”

Such were the feelings of General Fiske while engaged with his brigade in taking Vicksburg. As commander of the post of St. Louis, he is a terror to evil-doers and a praise to them who do well. The Committee are cheered by his presence at our meetings and cordial co-operation in carrying out plans for the good of the soldiers.

Our receipts from all sources during the year have been \$5108 81; expenditures, \$4078 88; leaving a balance of \$1029 98.

Thirty delegates have been commissioned and sent out, six of whom are still in commission. 58,711 Testaments, 190 Bibles, 16,815 hymn-books; 52,392 knapsack-books, 4756 bound volumes, 6343 magazines, 8,174,561 pages of tracts, 225,369 papers, 19,214 cards, and 1798 miscellaneous publications, inclusive of all received from the central office and all other sources, have been distributed during the year.

With our rooms located in a central position of the city, where daily prayer-meetings and other services are held; with an efficient Committee, ready for every good word and work; with a field agent to visit the hospitals and the army, and also to lay our wants before the churches and secure their interest and co-operation; with our brethren and colaborers at Memphis, Little Rock, Vicksburg, Natchez, and on the gunboats; with the people on all parts of our field ready to give their

money or sanitary supplies, we enter on the labors of the new year, hoping to accomplish much for the spiritual and temporal benefit of the brave men who have set us an example of self-denial and devotion.

The co-operation of Peoria, Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukee, should enable us to canvass thoroughly the home field, and provide both men and means to thoroughly supply our Southwestern army.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Commission at the rooms, St. Louis, January 18, 1864.

ISAAC S. SMYTH,  
Chairman.

JNO. B. WHITEHEAD,  
Secretary.

J. H. PARSONS,  
Corresponding Secretary St. Louis Christian Commission.

#### LETTER FROM A GRATEFUL SOLDIER.

WARD O, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MO.,  
October 12, 1863.

MISS JENNIE L. WHEDON,  
Bunker Hill, Illinois.

You will pardon the presumption of a wounded soldier for writing you a few lines. Seeing your name in a book that I have just finished reading, I thought surely you must be a friend to the soldier to give or send books to the hospital. If you could realize how eagerly the soldiers grab at the pamphlets, tracts, and books that are distributed among them, you would not falter in the good work of giving reading matter to the sick or wounded soldier. It gladdens the soldier's heart to think that he is thought of and cared for, after fatiguing marches and suffering from the want of food. Hoping you will continue to give or send good books, I tender you the thanks of the sick and wounded soldiers of Ward O.

Respectfully,  
DAVID A. TROWBRIDGE.

The above is one of the books contained in six boxes sent from that place, besides a handsome donation in money.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINS AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS.

JEFFERSON BARRACKS,  
October 30, 1863.

REV. S. WELLS,  
Field Agent, &c.

We desire gratefully to acknowledge the reception, from time to time during the last several months, of books and packages of books, and other reading matter, sent through your kind agency for distribution in this hospital. Please accept our thanks for your Christian interest in behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers now placed providentially under our care, and whose comfort and spiritual edification, as we trust, are daily promoted and ministered to through the aid of your acceptable and timely benefactions. Praying God to bless you abundantly in your labors, we are,

Very truly and fraternally, yours,

JOHN F. FISH,  
Post Chaplain United States Army.  
SAMUEL PETTIGREW,  
Hospital Chaplain United States Army.

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PEORIA COMMITTEE.

Report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian  
Association of Peoria, Illinois, for 1863.

THIS Committee has done a large, and, we hope, a profitable work in the army this year. The number of delegates has not been large; but great care has been taken to send none but those well qualified for the work. The President of our association left for the Army of the Mississippi on the 2d of February. He visited Memphis and the army then before Vicksburg. The weather being unfavorable for out-door meetings, his labors were principally confined to the hospitals. Having remained away about a month, he returned, and made arrangements for a more protracted visit later in the season.

Rev. Hiram Doane, our city missionary, being desirous of

laboring for Jesus among the soldiers, and hearing of the want of a faithful chaplain in the hospitals of Nashville, we sent him to that place on the 1st of February. He remained there, working most faithfully in the cause of his Master, until he found his health failing, consequent upon the constant breathing of the fetid atmosphere of the hospitals. His whole heart was in the work, however, and he determined to continue in the army for the war. He immediately proceeded to Memphis, and entered the Forty-seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteers as their chaplain, where he continued until his Master called him up higher. But few men were so admirably adapted for this glorious work as Mr. Doane. Faithful, persevering, deeply sympathizing with the suffering, kind to all, and always on the watch to do something for his Lord and Master, he was a model chaplain. Through all the battles and siege of Vicksburg, he was always with his regiment. Where the fight was most bloody and the carnage most awful, there was always to be found this most faithful man of God, caring for the wounded, and as far as in his power relieving suffering. But few men have the power which he possessed, of drawing others towards them, and gaining the confidence and affection of those among whom he was thrown. It required no summons from the commander to bring out an audience for his services in the camp. The sound of his voice, as he stood in the midst of the encampment, was enough. The boys clustered around, eager for the words of him who lived as he taught. In the midst of his usefulness he was called away by that mysterious Providence "whose ways are not our ways." All we can do is to bow our heads in submission and say, "Thy will be done." He died on the 21st of July, in the United States Hospital at Vicksburg.

"Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wake to weep;  
A calm and undisturbed repose,  
Unbroken by the last of foes."

On the 31st of March, the President of our Association, accompanied by Rev. Sanford H. Smith and Miss Mary Smith, left for the Army of the Mississippi. At Cairo they were joined by Mr. Howard of the American Tract Society, and at Memphis by Mr. K. A. Burnell of the St. Louis Association. They

labored in the hospitals of Memphis and among the soldiers around that city, also in Fort Pickering, for some two weeks, Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds proceeding down the river to Helena and Vicksburg; Miss Smith accepting a position in the Union Hospital, where she now is, giving her time and all she has for the relief of our poor suffering soldiers. When the history of this war is written, one of its most glorious pages will be the record of the self-denying devotion of these Christian women, who have left comfortable, and, in many cases, luxurious homes, for years of labor in our Southern hospitals. Rev. Mr. Smith remained for a few weeks preaching Jesus to the thousands of soldiers surrounding Memphis.

At Helena, Messrs. Reynolds and Burnell were entertained, during their stay of a week, by that Christian soldier, General Fiske, who is not only a soldier of his country, but a soldier of the Cross, carrying aloft the Stars and Stripes and "standing up for Jesus" wherever he is placed. All the camps and hospitals at this point were visited and supplied with religious reading, and many an inquiring soul pointed to Jesus. While at this point, an Iowa regiment was visited by Mr. Reynolds, and upon inquiry, was informed no religious service had been held in it for over nine months. The assembly call being sounded, a majority of the regiment convened, and were addressed by Mr. Reynolds upon the subject of their souls' salvation. At the close of the meeting all Christians were requested to remain. Nine persons tarried. The speaker asked them if they were willing to live for the future as they had in the past, with no religious services whatever. He reminded them of the command, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." Deep feeling was manifested by the little number,—penitence for past neglect of duty; and at the close of the remarks they all with one consent resolved that, God helping them, they would be more fully consecrated to their Saviour, whom for so many months they had "followed afar off." It was announced that in the evening a prayer-meeting would be held in a deserted plantation house near at hand. Upon the arrival of the hour for meeting, the expected nine appeared, and with them between two and three hundred of their fellow-soldiers. The meeting was opened by singing the hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus'

name." This was followed by the offering up of a prayer by one of the officers of the regiment. As the meeting progressed, many, unused to weep, were seen bathed in tears; sobs and crying were heard from almost every portion of that large congregation, and that night there "was joy in the presence of the angels of God over sinners repenting." A fine-looking officer arose and said, "Soldiers, you are no doubt surprised at seeing me here this evening, and you will be more surprised when I tell you that I was once a Christian, and have now a Christian wife and three children in the State of Iowa. Before I left them, that wife made me promise to maintain my Christian character unsullied in the army. But I soon forgot that promise. On entering this regiment I had not moral courage enough to tell any one I was a Christian. Ashamed to pray, I soon found Christ was ashamed of me. I fell fast into profanity, intemperance, and gambling. As most of you know, I am now addicted to all those vices. Do you think I am happy? Oh, no; I am miserable. That faithful wife would write me each week a long letter, and at the close would often say, 'Oh, George, if we are never permitted to meet on earth again, how it comforts me to know we will meet on the other side of Jordan, where there are no wars and no parting.' Oh, soldiers, how those letters would burn my heart! How that wife was deceived! Many a night I have lain awake thinking over my fallen condition, and then drowned my thoughts in the morning with liquor. Day before yesterday I received another letter from that wife, in which she said, 'George, in looking over your letters, I am surprised you say nothing about your religious condition; how you are progressing in your Christian course. Oh, George, can it be possible you have turned your back upon your Saviour, and that you are no longer a Christian? If I thought for a moment that if you should fall in this war, and I should never see you again in this world, and that we would never meet in the next, *it would break my heart.*'" The strong man was broken down. After becoming more calm, he proceeded, saying, "Now, soldiers, as for me, I, like the prodigal son, am determined to return to my Father. From this time henceforward I am determined to stand up for Christ as valiantly as for my country." And, from letters which we have received from that regiment, we

learn he is "standing up" and doing a great work in drawing others to Jesus.

From Helena Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds proceeded to Milliken's Bend, about nine miles above Vicksburg. From this point the troops proceeded to Grand Gulf and the rear of Vicksburg. Here they had an opportunity of distributing large quantities of Testaments, hymn-books, &c., and holding meetings with some thirty or forty regiments, besides supplying all the hospitals and hospital boats with libraries, and a Testament and hymn-book placed in the hand of every man able to read. Some most touching incidents are upon our records, which came under the observation of our delegates while at this point. Large numbers of soldiers were induced to exchange their cards for Testaments and hymn-books. Religious associations were started in a number of regiments, and God blessed the labors of the delegates abundantly. About three tons of religious reading matter was distributed in the two weeks they labored at this place. Rev. Mr. Smith joined Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds here, and devoted a large share of his time to laboring with the contrabands who were in camp at this place and Lake Providence. He did a noble work among these poor outcasts. Our delegates left Milliken's Bend on their return on the 8th May, reaching home on the 15th.

On the 10th of June we commissioned the Rev. Mr. Jennison of Michigan, and Rev. Mr. Cornelison of this State. The former proceeded to Vicksburg, where he was at the time of its surrender. His work was very laborious, and attended with great danger, both from the missiles of the enemy and the exposures to the climate, which is disastrous to one from the North visiting this region for the first time. He remained at his post faithfully doing his work until cut down by disease. The latter part of July he was obliged to return home, where he lay at the point of death for several weeks. The last accounts we had from him, in November, he had not fully recovered from his illness; thus almost sacrificing his life for the purpose of saving souls. God will bless such devotion to his cause. Mr. Cornelison remained in Memphis, laboring in the hospitals of that city, and pointing poor dying sinners to Jesus, the sinner's friend. He, too, was obliged to return, after a service of seven weeks in



the work. Hearing of the great destitution at Chattanooga, we sent the Rev. Mr. Hazen, on the 28th of September, to that point. This Committee has held, during the past year, ten army meetings, as follows:

Peoria, 2; Henry, 1; Pekin, 1; Elmwood, 1; Bloomington, 2; Galesburg, 1; Ottawa, 1; Jacksonville, 1.

We have also received and distributed a large quantity of sanitary stores. Thus, while conveying the temporal wants in one hand, we held a medicine for the soul in the other. First relieve a soldier's bodily wants, then comfort his soul. Thanking God for the privilege of working in this glorious field, and being encouraged by the assurance that we have done something for his cause, we are determined to press forward and work diligently while this great opportunity lasts for Christian effort.

A. G. TYNG,  
GEO. H. McILVAINE,  
WM. REYNOLDS,  
S. WYCOFF,  
THOS. G. McCULLOCH, JR.

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### CHICAGO COMMITTEE.

#### Report of the Chicago Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

OUR work for the past year began on January 2d, when the battle-field of Murfreesboro called for delegates and supplies. Since that call forty-eight delegates have been sent, who have visited the battle-fields, camps, and hospitals, at Louisville, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Cowan Station, Bridgeport, Stevenson, Chattanooga, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Lookout, Mission Ridge, Peoria, Springfield, St. Louis, Columbus, Cairo, Corinth, Memphis, Milliken's Bend, Vicksburg, Natchez, Port Hudson, Helena, Arkansas Point, Little Rock, Lake Providence, and New Orleans. They have spent an aggregate of sixty-five months' time, and have held thousands of meetings and conversed with and distributed to many thousands of our soldiers their share of the great number of religious publications and stores included in

the general statement of the Commission. The results of this labor, as reported by these delegates and by the letters received from soldiers, have been most blessed. The incidents would fill volumes,—all proving the Commission to be honored of God and received by the brave men of our army and navy as the most powerful and efficient means of furnishing the wounded and dying, on the field and in the hospital, with the supplies which sustain and save life, and also of encouraging and upholding the hands of our earnest, faithful chaplains in their work, and in multitudes of cases saving the souls of men who have been pointed to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.

Our receipts of money during the year are,	-	-	-	\$8,182	29
Of which we have expended on the field,	-			\$5,806	14
Remitted to Philadelphia for Richmond prisoners,				2,003	37
				<u>7,809</u>	<u>51</u>

Leaving balance on hand,	-	-	-	-	\$372	78
We have received of boxes and barrels of stores,						
					112,	valued at 1,100 00
And purchased,	-	-	-	-	80,	valued at 750 00
					<u>142</u>	<u>valued at 1,850 00</u>

We have distributed publications as follows:

Copies of Scriptures,	-	-	-	-	-	22,000
Copies of hymn-books,	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Copies of knapsack-books,	-	-	-	-	-	17,500
Copies of bound books,	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Copies of magazines and pamphlets,	-	-	-	-	-	4,700
Copies of religious papers,	-	-	-	-	-	170,000
Pages of tracts,	-	-	-	-	-	300,000

Our local work has been in the following camps and hospitals of our city: Camp Douglas, Camp Wright, City, Marine and Camp Douglas Hospitals, and Soldiers' Home, and in our rooms. In the two first and last we have held meetings during the year to the number of over five hundred, which have been attended by large numbers of soldiers, and been blessed of God to the conversion of many souls. In all of them the distribution of religious literature has been extensive, in the hospitals especially, through the chaplains. One of the interesting features of our work has been among the rebel prisoners in Camp Doug-

las, which, to the number of from six thousand to seven thousand, have been confined during a large portion of the year. The meetings among them have been blessed, and large numbers have nightly crowded to the chapel, or during the day gathered in the open air, to listen to the word of God, and many of them we hope have been changed from rebels against God to the willing subjects of King Jesus; and many give good promise of returning loyalty to our Union. As illustrating this, when our hymn-books, which have Our Flag on the covers, were first distributed, numbers refused them; but few now remain who have not become possessors of the books and flag. Often, during the meetings, numbers have signified their desire to be saved, and some have rejoiced in the knowledge of pardoned sins. We have co-operated with the Committee of Cincinnati, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Peoria, and St. Louis, in organizing and maintaining daily Union prayer-meetings and reading rooms, in Nashville, Memphis, Vicksburg, and Little Rock, whose influence has been so signally felt in the army, and for the details of which we refer to the reports of the field agents. We unite with the various branches of the Commission in thanking God for this great privilege of laboring for the brave defenders of our glorious Union.

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### BUFFALO COMMITTEE.

THE Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Union respectfully present to the United States Christian Commission the following general report of their work, during the year of our Lord 1863:

During this year, the Committee have endeavored to accomplish these four objects, viz., to direct the attention of the public, in this city and its vicinity, to the aims and workings of the United States Christian Commission; to collect money and stores to aid in the accomplishment of its noble and blessed work; to send delegates to our citizen soldiers and sailors, whether in hospitals or camps, or on fields of battle; and to furnish to these same men, as far as practicable, patriotic and religious reading.

In endeavoring to attain its first object, viz., to enlist the public sympathy in behalf of the United States Christian Commission, the Committee held meetings of Christians in various churches, addressed, in behalf of the Christian Commission, by eloquent and zealous men. Six such meetings, all of them numerously attended, have been held in this city, and thirteen have been held in as many large and growing villages, in the western part of this State.

In accomplishing its second object, viz., the obtaining of money and stores, the Committee, by permission of the several pastors in whose churches the above-mentioned meetings were held, took collections of money for the purposes of the United States Christian Commission; and the Committee also, by sending out many of their circulars, and publishing short articles in various newspapers, secular and religious, have been instrumental in securing liberal and valuable donations of stores for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors of our army and navy.

For the better accomplishment of this second object, the Committee, in May last, with the approbation of several clergymen, given by their presence and earnest words at a public meeting, urged the formation of a "Ladies' Christian Commission of Buffalo." Such an organization was made, and has proved of great service in carrying on the work of the United States Christian Commission.

In accomplishing its third object, the Committee have not been as successful as it desired and hoped. Though articles have been published in newspapers, calling for the services of pious and zealous laymen and clergymen, in the capacity of delegates; and though gentlemen, both lay and clerical, have been called on, and urged to devote themselves for a time to the work of preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the brave defenders of our nation's life and independence, still but three delegates have gone out under their auspices.

In accomplishing their fourth object, the Committee have caused to be published and distributed amongst our soldiers and sailors, twenty-seven hundred copies of a sermon, entitled, "God in the War," and delivered, at their request, by the Rev. Dr. Smith, of this city, on the day of national thanksgiving, in August last.

They have distributed amongst the Invalid Corps, stationed at Camp Morgan, in this city, eight hundred copies of the "Christian Advocate." Since the 1st of July, they have also sent, weekly, five hundred copies of the same valuable paper to the Armies of the Cumberland and the Potomac.

The receipts and disbursements of the Committee have been as follows :

Cash received, . . . . .	\$3,361 21
Cash remitted to the Central Committee, . . . . .	\$1,300 00
Cash paid on account of Central Committee for delegates' expenses and publications, . . . . .	350 00
Cash for local disbursements of Committee, . . . . .	284 53
Cash balance on hand, . . . . .	1426 68
	<hr/>
	\$3,361 21

Such is a general statement of the work done by the Committee during the year ; and in accomplishing it, meetings of the Committee have been held, on an average, once a week. O that its results were ten times, yea a hundred times, more ! What sacrifices too great to be made in behalf of the present and eternal welfare of those who have gone forth, in the cause of truth, justice, humanity, and liberty, to fight our battles for us ! May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, bless more and more abundantly, in all its workings, the United States Christian Commission !

JOHN D. HILL,  
Chairman

JOHN F. ERNEST,  
Secretary pro tem.

### Ladies' Christian Commission, Buffalo.

GEORGE H. STUART, Esq.,

Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

The ladies of the Christian Commission of Buffalo, in making their report to you for publication, regret that there is so little of particular incident connected with their work. They have been too far from the fields of action, and work so entirely through the delegates of your Commission, that all items of peculiar interest are already in your possession. Of the origin

and organization of the Society there is more to relate. Established as it was but eight months ago, without a dollar in its treasury, and among a community that scarcely knew of the existence of the United States Christian Commission, it has gradually grown in strength, until the Buffalo Society finds itself a nucleus around which many valuable auxiliaries cluster from beyond the bounds of our own city.

The financial report which is added, will convey to you a better idea of the prosperity of the Society than any detail which can be given in words.

Cash collected from all sources, . . . . .	\$4,168 40
" expended for business and other items, . . . . .	1,593 57
" sent to the Central Office, . . . . .	1,600 00
Number of packages of stores donated to the Society, 869.	
Value of the same, . . . . .	6,013 20½
Number of packages sent to the field, 317.	
Of these, only 201 were valued, which amounted to . . . . .	4,856 06

The ladies wish to add, that their interest in this work has deepened as the months have passed by; and what was done in weakness and sent forth with distrust, has been like the blessing of olden days, which returned upon the head of the giver in seven-fold measure.

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## INDIANAPOLIS COMMITTEE.

THE Indiana branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized the last week in November, and commenced its work on the 1st of December.

During the one month, the last of the year, the first of their work, four delegates have been sent to the Army of the Cumberland, seven hundred and three dollars and eighty-four cents collected, and amongst the soldiers in camps, hospitals, and barracks in their own locality, they have distributed 1373 copies of Scriptures, 350 hymn and psalm books, 1641 knapsack books, 450 pamphlets, and 7020 pages of tracts.

The officers of this branch of the Commission are G. W.

Clippinger, President; James M. Ray, Treasurer; C. N. Todd, Corresponding Secretary, and L. H. Croll, Recording Secretary.

Thus fairly launched, with the rich, populous, enterprising, fertile State of Indiana as a field of supply, and the whole army, with its hundreds of thousands of brave men, away from their homes and churches, exposed to hardship, privation, and all the hazards of war, calling for delegates, publications, and stores, the Indiana Branch cannot fail to do something, in the year upon which we now enter, worthy of the cause.

January 1st, 1864.

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### DETROIT COMMITTEE.

UNTIL some months of the year now closed had passed by, the liberality of Michigan, in relief of the soldiers, had passed exclusively through other channels than that of the United States Christian Commission.

Upon the occasion of a visit of Rev. C. P. Lyford, from Convalescent Camp, near Alexandria, Va., a public meeting was held in Detroit, about the middle of June, and an army committee was formed.

In August, in compliance with an invitation, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw of Cincinnati, and Rev. A. G. McAuley of Philadelphia, addressed the citizens of Detroit, giving a new and generous impulse to the cause.

Rev. Mr. McAuley consented to extend his visit, and meetings were called in some of the principal towns through the southern part of the State. Everywhere the statements concerning the Christian Commission were warmly received and gladly responded to.

In October, by the plan of co-operation, the relations of the Detroit and other branches of the Commission to the Central Office and general work in the army, were more clearly defined.

Meanwhile the Washington Agency of the Michigan Soldiers' Relief, and the delegates in Congress from Michigan, having watched the workings of the various agencies for the benefit of our suffering men in the national service, sent home a strong

commendation of the Christian Commission, its principles of distribution, and plans and methods of working. This, of course, could not but confirm confidence, increase interest, and draw forth yet more the men and the means to carry on field operations abroad in the army.

The ladies have organized an army committee of their own, in full harmony and co-operation with that of the gentlemen, and are pursuing their work in their own local field, and for the soldiers away in the war, with a devotion, self-sacrifice, and success, seldom achieved by any other than ladies.

Besides the local appropriations and work, in relief of the wounded and sick, in St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit, and the hospital of the Detroit barracks, where wounded men from Chattanooga, in addition to whatever else Christian kindness could do, were supplied with warm clothing, in defence from the winter's severity, nine delegates have been sent to the army, two thousand three hundred dollars in cash remitted to the Central Office for the general work in the army, and two hundred and thirty-nine boxes of hospital stores, valued at one thousand dollars, furnished for the benefit of the soldiers.

This Michigan branch of the United States Christian Commission has steadily and rapidly advanced to a position of strength in the hearts of the people, very unusual, and abundant in promise of good to our noble men in the army and navy. God grant that the year now opening may witness their bountiful liberality and the good deeds of their delegates on every field of necessity and emergency, and bring upon them and their State the soldiers' blessing, and His, also, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow.

January 1st, 1864.

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## NEW YORK COMMITTEE.

THE United States Christian Commission, while it undertook to provide, as far as its means enabled it, for the spiritual wants of the various armies occupying inland positions on this continent, committed the supply of the armies on the sea-coast, and of the entire navy, to the New York Committee. As the field



of labor is so distinct, and the machinery by which it works so different, the Committee is preparing a brief report of its proceedings, which it will issue separately, and meanwhile will only furnish a short abstract, to be incorporated in the Report of the Commission. But while it presents a separate report, it by no means wishes to be considered as working at all independently of the parent Commission, or as engaged in a distinct work. It considers itself as auxiliary to and closely connected with the general organization, and wishes to embrace this opportunity of claiming a connection, which has contributed in large degree, to the success which has crowned its labors.

The benefits of the public recognition of the services of the Commission, and the recommendation of its delegates to the protection and facilities of the army, have inured to the New York Committee, and without at present recapitulating the action of Government, or of the commanders in the field, the Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance that has been extended to it. The generals in command at Newbern, Norfolk, Port Royal, and New Orleans, have vied with each other in aiding the delegates of the Commission, and the officers commanding the blockading fleet have in like manner granted every facility. Government supply vessels have been directed to give passage to delegates, and forward any amount of stores and reading matter; and the liberality of Government has been imitated by the private steamers and the express agencies, which were engaged in business on the coast line of operation.

By an arrangement with the Central Board, the supply of nearly one-fourth of the war forces in the service of the Government was placed under the charge of the New York Committee.

For the distribution of religious reading and the proper division of the labors of its delegates, the New York Committee has established in its field four principal stations.

1. Norfolk, Virginia. As Union stations drawing supplies from this point, Fortress Monroe, Portsmouth, Newport News, and Yorktown.

2. Newbern. As Union stations, Plymouth, Washington, and Beaufort.

3. Hilton Head. As Union stations, Port Royal, Morris Island, and Folly Island. Also Fernandina and St. Augus-

tine receive their supplies and delegates from this main station.

4. New Orleans. Including Port Hudson, Baton Rouge, Brashier City, and stations in Texas.

It will thus be seen that the field of this agency stretches along nearly two thousand miles of coast, and that both a most responsible and a most difficult duty has been confided to it. The distance of the field of labor and the scattered character of the forces that occupy it, have increased greatly the difficulty of economically attending to its wants, but after a little experience, and by the steady devotion to the cause of some of its active members, matters have at length been reduced to a systematic plan, which the Committee are induced to believe both economical and efficient.

The Committee have been able to send down to the field, intrusted to their care, about eighty delegates, of whom twelve were sent to the Army of the Potomac, sixteen to Portsmouth and vicinity, ten to Newbern and other points in North Carolina, nineteen to Hilton Head, Port Royal, and Fernandina, twenty to New Orleans and other points on the Lower Mississippi, and some even accompanied the army to Brownsville, in Texas. It must here be mentioned, however, that the sojourn of the delegates in the field was, by the action of this Committee, made of greater duration than has been common, generally, in the experience of the Christian Commission, and that the number that has been reported does not make a full exhibition of the amount of work accomplished. The devoted and efficient delegate in New Orleans has been there upwards of twelve months, and is only reckoned as one delegate, whereas had six been sent down, each to labor two months, the amount of work accomplished would not have been more than the result attained by this single delegate, if even it would have equalled it. Allowance must therefore be made, in estimating the efficiency of the Committee, for the length of the service of the delegates and the distant field of their labor. The difficulties inherent in the portion of the country assigned to this Committee, have induced them to modify in part the arrangements made generally with the delegates by the Commission, and to a certain, but very limited extent, to allow a small compensation for the increased length of

service required. The reasons for this action are fully set forth in the following report, made by a subcommittee, which for the proper explanation of arrangement is here inserted.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1863.

The Committee to which the propriety of adopting a system of paying the delegates of the Christian Commission was referred, respectfully report:

That they have given the subject careful and mature consideration, and feel convinced that as long as the present Christian sympathy exists which induces so many suitable pastors and laymen to volunteer their services, it would be inexpedient to make any change in the present *general* plan of the Commission. But at the same time they are also convinced, that the distance of a few of the stations from this port, and the loss of time and heavy expense entailed in travelling to and fro, make it desirable to have some more permanent arrangement with delegates going South for the summer months, and they would therefore recommend the executive committee to authorize the modification of the plan now in operation, to permit the payment of a small compensation to those delegates who agree to remain for four months at least in their field of labor.

It will evidently be impossible to send fresh delegates to our distant stations at the South after midsummer; hence the necessity of obtaining more continuous service.

The committee recommend that the rates of payment should not exceed one dollar a day, for the time actually devoted to the interests of the Commission.

(Signed)

H. DYER,  
NATHAN BISHOP,  
ARCH. RUSSELL.

NEW YORK, May 14th, 1863.

It is unnecessary to refer here to the constant use which delegates to the battle-fields and hospitals have made of stores and articles of necessity and comfort, to be distributed among the soldiers. The principle has been the embodiment of Christianity, and has at once elevated the Christian Commission to the high position it occupies. Christian delegates, conveying religious comfort and consolation without the material appliances needed by the wounded, would have visited the camps unheeded and in vain, but delegates occupying themselves with the comforts necessary for the wounded, while they solaced the dying with the tidings of the Gospel, have had their labors doubly blessed. The New York Committee are fully aware of the happy results which have flowed from this union of the temporal and spiritual

wants of the soldier, and were only compelled by circumstances to modify it in part. They recognized the distinct character of the Bible, tract, and missionary, from that of the sanitary and soldiers' aid societies, and fully recognized the duty of uniting, as the Christian Commission in Philadelphia and elsewhere had done, the usefulness of both. But there were advantages in modifying the arrangements in the field committed to them, which a brief consideration will make apparent. Government had ready access by water communication to the army in this field, and hence there was no excuse for the Commissariat and Quartermaster's department not having on hand all the stores and appliances needed for the men in the service. And in this expectation facts have fully justified the committee, as it is believed that never were armies more adequately provided by their Government with all the comforts and necessities which should be distributed, or could, to advantage, be used by the men. The immense interior line in the army, and the difficulty of transporting provisions and the munitions of war, rendered it indispensable for the efficient working of the General Commission in the inland portions of the country, that it should be able to furnish its delegates with an abundant supply of stores to supplement those provided by Government. The New York Committee, finding that the amount of stores needed for its delegates was not great, and that the Sanitary Commission had ample supplies of what was required by our delegates, and anxious also to avoid all appearance of opposition, were induced to propose an arrangement which would enable the delegates of the Christian Commission to make use of all stores required, and at the same time harmonize any apparent conflict between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. Hence the motive that led to correspondence and subsequent agreement to hand over to the Sanitary Commission all the stores received by the New York Committee, on condition that the requisition of the delegates on the field should be met by the agents of the Sanitary Commission.

In making this agreement, however, with the Sanitary Commission, hardly was sufficient consideration given to the voluntary action of the friends of the Christian Commission throughout the sections of country assigned to the New York Committee. The amount of stores received in New York never was great,

but it was found that those interested in the work preferred attaching themselves directly to the parent Commission in Philadelphia, to becoming auxiliary to Committee; and the consequence has been, that the field from which we draw our supplies has become very much reduced. Brooklyn, Buffalo, Troy, and Rochester have, as well as many other cities, attached themselves directly to the Commission in Philadelphia, thus contracting the area of supply greatly. At present, by a recent understanding with the Commission through Mr. Stuart, it is agreed that the New York Committee shall confine its collections chiefly to the city and river counties of the State, and cease to solicit either funds or donations of stores from other quarters.

The funds collected by the New York Committee have, since its organization till the 1st of March, 1864, amounted to \$62,751 39. The larger part of this amount has been contributed directly to the office in New York, the result either of personal application or of collections made by churches interested in the work. Part has been sent from distant stations, the missionaries in China and Siam having made remittances, and several amounts have been received from California, with large contributions from Nevada.

A financial statement of the expenditure of the Committee has already been furnished for this report, but a fuller and more detailed amount of all the moneys expended will be embraced in the report about to be published in New York.

In this connection it may be proper to state, that this branch of the Christian Commission, being more directly on the Southern seaboard, has been called upon largely to relieve the necessities, and furnish reading matter for those men who have recently escaped from the house of bondage; in fact almost all the colored troops are in this field. No difference in the men who wear the United States uniform is recognized, except in modifying the nature of the publications sent to meet more accurately the wants of those for whose use they are destined. The Committee have forwarded large numbers of books, and primers, and first lessons in arithmetic, for the use of the colored troops, and thousands have learned to read, who were untaught and would have remained in ignorance, if in the former state of slavery.

At the suggestion of both officers and men, the number and

proportion of newspapers has been steadily increased, and at present large numbers of weekly religious papers are supplied to the army. The various hospitals and encampments in and around New York have been regularly supplied with copies of the Scriptures and fresh weekly religious reading matter, and the various monthly publications, such as the American Messenger and Parish Visitor, are sent in large numbers. The forts around New York, to some of which delegates have been sent, and to all of which reading matter has been furnished, are,

**FORTS.**—Fort Richmond, Fort Hamilton, Fort Sandy Hook, Fort Columbus.

**CAMPS.**—Camp Sprague, Staten Island; Riker's Island; Park Barracks.

**HOSPITALS.**—De Camp, David's Island; McDougall, Fort Schuyler; Newark, New Jersey; Bedloe's Island; Central Park; Ladies' Home, Fifteenth Street; Lovell.

A regular supply has been kept at the navy-yard, in Brooklyn, and most of the time an agent has been employed to make up and place on board the navy supply-vessels, bound for the blockading squadron, packages of new and suitable reading matter, for the crews on the coast. When it is remembered that the whole force engaged in blockading the long line of coast, from Fortress Monroe to the mouth of the Rio Grande, is without a single chaplain, the advantage of providing for a full supply of religious reading matter, as well as the occasional services of a Christian delegate, can be appreciated.

The number of publications sent by the New York Committee, during the past year, is as follows:

	COPIES.
Weekly religious newspapers, . . . . .	487,180
Monthly " " . . . . .	537,450
Tracts, . . . . .	1,953,000
Small books prepared for soldiers and seamen, . . . . .	143,267
Bound volumes for hospitals and libraries, . . . . .	7,633
Hymn-books, . . . . .	32,458
Bibles and Testaments, . . . . .	29,870
Total number of publications distributed, . . . . .	3,194,707

The value of the above (not including Bibles, prayer-books and miscellaneous matter donated, to the amount of at least \$6000),	\$21,340
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It is gratifying to the Committee to be able to state, that the work in which it has been engaged has met with the cordial support of the various commanders in the field, and been, as they believe, largely blessed to the soldier and the sailor. There will be appended to the report about to be published, for local distribution among the contributors to the New York agency, full extracts from a large correspondence, showing the usefulness of the work, and its kind appreciation both by those in authority and the class it has aimed to benefit. At present, it has been deemed expedient only to present this brief outline of the work, and to notice, in greater detail, some particulars in which the New York Committee have been forced to deviate from the plan followed by the parent Commission. In the future, the Committee trust in the providence of God to be able to continue the work intrusted to it with equal and, in some particulars, greater efficiency. It has gained much experience, and as the result will be able to direct its efforts more economically and efficiently, to promote the great cause committed to it,—the spreading of the Gospel of Christ among the hundreds of thousands now battling for the rights of their country on the Southern coast. The responsibility is great, and should be approached in humble reliance upon the sustaining power of that God in whose name we lift up our banners. The necessity of prompt action is also apparent. A few months more may see many, now presenting a bold front to the enemy, either prostrated by disease or cut down in the strife of battle,—

“The weary to rest and the wounded to die.”

And before this Committee is called upon to make another annual report, the mighty hosts which occupy so many stations on the coast may all be separated and restored to their wonted homes, and the seedtime which the present organization presents may be lost forever.

*U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.*  
LIST OF STATIONS AT THE FRONT IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

1st Division.	FIRST CORPS.	SECOND CORPS.	THIRD CORPS.	FIFTH CORPS.	SIXTH CORPS.	CAVALRY CORPS.	RESERVE ARTILL.
	Culpeper Station, Five Delegates, Head Quarters, Mr. Williams, Field Agent.	Supplied from Mountain Run Station. Detached Delegate in 4th Brigade.	Ballook Station, Two Delegates.	Well supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied from Culpeper and S. Pike Stations.	River Station, Three Delegates.
2d Division.	Sperryville Pike Station, Two Delegates.	Cole Hill Station, Three Delegates.	Hope Station, Three Delegates.	Union Station, Two Delegates.	— Station, Two Delegates.	Warren Green Station, Three Delegates.	Cedar Station, Three Delegates.
3d Division.	Supplied from Culpeper Station. Also, from Pine Hill.	Supplied from Cole Hill. Detached Delegates in 2d Brigade.	Supplied from Brandy. Detached Delegates in 2d Brigade.	— Station, Two Delegates.	Well supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied from Cole Hill.	
Art. Brigade, attached, &c.	Pine Hill Station, Two Delegates.	Mountain Run Station, Three Delegates.	Supplied with preaching and papers from Brandy.	Partly supplied from Union and — Stations.	Unsupplied by us. Several Chaplains within a few rods of the Artillery camp.	No Artillery attached.	Reserve Artillery has no divisions, properly speaking. We have two stations in them, one in the Light, and one in the Heavy Batteries.
Total.	3 Stations, 9 Delgs.	2 Stations, 8 Delgs.	2 Stations, 6 Delgs.	2 Stations, 4 Delgs.	1 Station, 2 Delgs.	1 Station, 3 Delgs.	2 Stat. 6 Delgs.

Brandy Station is not included in this table. It is the business centre, and on Sunday a number of preaching appointments around it are filled by those there on their way to or from the out-stations. The number of delegates would be increased from six to eight if the stations were all fully supplied.



## ARMY STATIONS.

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THE foregoing list of stations includes only those at the front in the Army of the Potomac in winter quarters. There are ten more connected with this one of our national armies, including Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Alexandria, Annapolis, and the great Artillery, Cavalry, Parole, and Convalescent Camps. And these all form but one field out of many occupied by the vast field organization of the Christian Commission.

Artillery Reserve Station No. 2, with its Bible class, is a fair specimen of the many comprised in this system of stations.

### **Artillery Reserve Station No. 2, and its Bible Class.**

Many Christian Commission stations in the army have become as springs in the desert to the soldiers. The rock has been smitten, and the waters of life have gushed out to assuage the thirst which two years and more of absence from home and church-altars has brought upon them. They have drank deeply and sweetly, and now, as they shall go forth, the health and life-giving current shall follow them through all marches and battles, and enable them to triumph even in death.

Usually three delegates are placed at a station, a chapel-tent is pitched, eighteen by thirty feet in size, a tent also for the delegates to live in, and a tent for stores. Of these there are fifteen in the army, as it is now at rest in winter quarters, at as many different army centres. One such station was established in the camp of the Artillery Reserves, soon followed by another, distinguished respectively as Artillery Reserve Station No. 1, and Artillery Reserve Station No. 2.

The three delegates placed at No. 2, were Rev. J. B. Davis of Bridesburg, Pa., Rev. G. S. Stockwell of Springfield, Mass., and Mr. Johnston Calhoun of Beaver County, Pa.

Greatly as it had been all along needed, this station could not

be established until there were men to take it, and conduct its various operations for the benefit of the soldiers. And when the tents were pitched, the ground was saturated by the heavy rains that had fallen. There were no seats in the chapel. The soldiers were eager and came in crowds to the tent. The coming and going made it very muddy. In the first meeting about seventy-five men stood in the mud as eager listeners to Rev. Mr. Davis, the preacher, who also stood in the mud to preach. It was the first sermon many of them had heard since enlisting, two years ago or more, and was the means of awakening several of the hearers, who subsequently were clearly, hopelessly converted to God. This was Saturday. On Sabbath there were two services. The commander of the Brigade and other officers came to the morning service. The evening service was still more largely attended and deeply impressive, all muddy and uncomfortable as it was. What would our people at home say to going out and standing through service after service in the mud? How many hearers would our ministers have in such a place? The eager and noble Reserves soon mended this matter. Procuring a team, they brought boughs of evergreens from the banks of the famous Rappahannock, and spread an ample and luxurious carpet of green from the primitive loom of nature, making the chapel comfortable and cheerful. A tall pole they brought also, and set it up with the United States Christian Commission chapel flag waving from its top. Lumber soon came; seats were made neatly, and compactly arranged to accommodate the largest possible number. Next, a platform for the preachers, and shelves at the sides for books, papers, and tracts.

Step by step, with this work of preparation, the work of God went forward. Every available place was occupied at each service, and every evening some sought personal, private instruction and guidance in the way of life after the public service was closed. Not only every seat would be occupied, but the platform served as a seat for as many as could crowd together upon its sides. Soon information reached us that about twenty decided conversions—two Romanists were of the number—had occurred, and the work increasing every day. And again and again came the joyous news of its progress,—a progress una-

bated now as I write. The delegates found there, first of all, a little band of seven young Christian men, who had maintained a prayer-meeting through all the long months of their hard marches and battles since their enlistment soon after the war began. The batteries have no chaplains. The delight of the seven may be,—no, it cannot well be,—imagined when the delegates came to them.

Another prayer-meeting they found, also, in the Eleventh Battery, already signalized by five or six decided joyous conversions.

A remarkable feature of the station is its Bible class, numbering forty-six private soldiers. Twenty of these, together with Mr. Calhoun, the delegate, left as its leader, when Rev. Mr. Davis was obliged to return to his pastoral duties at home, are given in the accompanying picture so faithfully that their friends at home, if familiar with their appearance in uniform, will readily distinguish them. Some of the number have already become convinced, that when the sword of war is laid down and peaceful union achieved, it will be their duty to take up the sword of the spirit as preachers of the Gospel. Two or more of them, though privates in the service, are college graduates, and one of these has already heard the glad news from his home that his wife, touched by his letters, has also yielded to God and enlisted to serve with him under the Captain of salvation. (See Frontispiece.)

The names of the forty-six are as follows:

Mr. Calhoun, *Teacher*,  
James Drake,  
Ellis F. Marsh,  
Thos. Ellis,  
George Perkins,  
Frank Jewell,  
John R. Sutton,  
Geo. H. Brown,  
Thomas Crane,  
Benjamin Hill,  
Wm. Johnson,  
George W. Smith,

George Poulas,  
David R. Patrick,  
Wm. Pierce,  
Terence Cadden,  
Daniel High,  
Jonathan G. Hand,  
John H. Van Nett,  
Robert Johnson,  
Albert T. Freeman,  
Daniel S. Cripps,  
Lafayette Moore,  
Frank Rombach,

James J. Dolliver,  
George West,  
John T. Boyd,  
Joseph Abbott,  
Geo. E. Fuller,  
Wm. Conger,  
William Ashere,  
William Biggs,  
James S. Oliver,

George Hill,  
Jacob Shank,

Lawrence Healy,  
John Eaker,  
Joseph K. Gates,  
John M. McDonald,  
Wm. M. Dolliver,  
Joseph C. Scott,  
F. S. Martin,  
Robert S. Eskildson,  
Frank Sprague,  
Newton Whims,  
Joseph Calhoun,  
C. H. Miller.

**General Howard's "Beau Ideal" of a Christian Commission  
Station in the Army of the Cumberland.**

**EXTRACT FROM GENERAL HOWARD'S LETTER.**

LOOKOUT VALLEY, HEADQUARTERS ELEVENTH CORPS,  
March 8, 1864.

\* \* \* \* \*

"We have here just my 'beau ideal' of a station. Soldiers are coming and going for books, papers, tracts, or conversations. The delegates constantly visit the hospitals and regiments, and are more than welcome. Last Sunday a delegate preached to my provost guard, orderlies, officers on my staff, and our servants, at these headquarters, at 5 p. m. This was a Rev. Mr. Smith, of Indiana. You never saw a more orderly and attentive audience. As they stood before and on either side, with hats off, eagerly listening to his words about Christ, many soldiers from the neighboring regiments came voluntarily and stood attentively in the background. I could not help praying and wishing for a special influence of the blessed Spirit among those men."

### THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Having made the circuit of the principal army fields and home auxiliaries of the United States Christian Commission, our view would yet be far from complete should we fail of a glance at the general headquarters in Philadelphia. Observe, first, the locality, full of significance. It is in the very heart of commerce and trade. Bank Street leads from Chestnut Street to Market, midway between Second and Third. Here, at No. 11, up stairs, in the Commercial Buildings of Stuart & Brother, importers of drygoods, are the rooms of the Central Office. Above and below, on the north and the south, in front and in rear, the business of buying and selling for gain engrosses all hearts and occupies every foot of the space, far and near, from cellar to garret. A stone's throw to the west, in Third Street, bankers and brokers have sway. As far east is Second Street, crowded with shops. At no greater distance north, in Market Street, wholesale houses bear rule. South, is Chestnut Street, crossed by Third, where four ways meet, overcrowded with jostling multitudes from all other streets, the representatives of all lines of business, all nationalities, all shades of complexion in political creed, and all grades of position in the social structure, all eagerly driving their vocation or seeking the news. Here, also, cluster newspaper, telegraph, and express offices; whilst not far away the thrones of the railway kings and corporations have their seat in their palaces of hewn stone. Here it is, surrounded by the clatter of traffic, the fever of greenbacks and gold, the rush of hurrying feet, the din of rattling wheels, the click, click, click of the news, the clangor of the press, the babel of tongues, all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a focus! A strange place, indeed, for the headquarters of a great Christian agency, having for its motto, "Freely receive, freely give." Yet here, indeed, it is, and here it lives and prospers. It is not overlooked, crowded out, forgotten, or despised; but respected, aided, built up, and fed by all around it,—a living and glorious tribute of the business world to Christianity and patriotism! How it came to be here, is one of the significant things of the amazing history of Christian beneficence in this war. Nor is the Central Office in this blessed sig-

nificance alone; but part and parcel, share and share alike, with the branch offices in Baltimore, Pittsburg, and Cincinnati, the treasurer's office in Philadelphia, and in principle, if not in circumstantial detail, with many other offices embraced in the organization throughout the whole country.

The executive head of the Commission was too full of his own business to stay abroad and meet the administrative necessities of such an agency. So he opened his doors, brought it home, and gave it quarters, as he gives it his personal services, free,—precisely what is done, also, by the treasurer, at the Western Bank, of which he is president, for the burden of his responsible work, and by the several chief officers of the branches mentioned above.

These things are stated in no spirit of vain-glory; but because they are true, and truly characteristic of the unbounded beneficence called forth by the war, and fairly illustrative of the singular economy of the administration of affairs throughout all the departments and operations of the United States Christian Commission.

Pendant from a cord stretched from side to side across Bank Street at No. 11, is the broad banner of the Christian Commission, which, in the language of Colonel Moore, "is simply the banner of our country consecrated to God."

Ascending the stairway, a spacious room opens out, one hundred and thirty feet long and thirty feet wide, with large windows at each end and skylight in the centre. One end, walled off by desk and counter, is used as an office, and occupied by five or six busy men at their tables and desks. The other end of the room is used for hospital stores and for receiving, repacking, marking, and shipping boxes of goods for the relief and benefit of suffering soldiers. The centre is used for newspapers, books, stationery, and various publications, which are here opened out, examined, arranged, and repacked for shipment to fill orders. The narrow circuit of these rooms, like the wide circuit of the various armies and committees, will reveal the nature of the United States Christian Commission as a national agency between the home, the church, the press, and the people, on the one hand, and the men away in the war on the other. Stores prepared by loving hands, family papers, and delegates warm

from the fireside, here on their way to the army, under the auspices of the Commission, show its agency between the home and the soldiers. Christian ministers and laymen of various churches on their way, ready in the apostolic spirit to become all things and suffer all things, if they can only win soldiers to Jesus, and religious reading, the Scriptures above all, here to be sent forth by the Commission, exhibit its character as an agency between the church and the soldiers. Its agency between the press and the soldiers is doubly represented, first by an enormous amount of various publications, fresh from the press, in transitu for the men in the field, and, second, by a system of supplying interesting facts concerning the soldiers for home circulation through the papers.

All these things, and many more besides, reveal the Commission as the people's agency for reaching the soldiers with their good gifts and good will,—gloriously, too, if we reflect that, in the yearly aggregate, they have swelled in value to about a million of dollars.

Letters written home, messages brought, mementos transmitted, facts made known, and, above all, the fire of the work brought from the blazing altars in the field by delegates returning, to be kindled on the altars of household and church, delegates daily reporting at the Central Office, amply illustrate the agency of the Commission between the men in the field and the people and church at home.

Observe, here on the left are library cases and library books. The cases open in the centre upon strong strap-hinges; a box when closed fastened by hasp and padlock, a case of shelves when standing open on end. The books bound in flexible oil-cloth, light, compact, impervious to water. Books and case admirably suited to the camp, and the books, if possible, even better adapted to the heart and life of the soldier.

On the right, family papers by thousands. On the left again, note paper and envelopes with printed motto, from the beak of a carrier dove, "The Christian Commission sends this as the soldier's message, Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings," for use on the free writing-tables of all stations in the field, and for free distribution, to promote correspondence with home. On the right again, in boxes piled up, condensed milk, shirts, draw-

ers, socks, condensed beef, farina, cornstarch, dried fruit, pickles, canned fruits, jellies, and jams, and other comforts, and clothing, with blankets, all designed for the field. Returning, here on the left see this long counter against the wall, with its orderly piles of knapsack-books, in many styles of binding, with winning titles, all intended to find happy lodgment in the hearts as well as the knapsacks of the soldiers, to cheer them and strengthen them for the marches and battles of the war for the country, and for holy conflicts and conquests for the King and kingdom eternal.

Most precious of all, here, in boxes, fresh from the American Bible Society—which, though issuing seven thousand copies a day, is unable to keep pace with the demand—are the Sacred Scriptures, in readiness for immediate transmission to the various fields from whence orders have come.

Passing now within the line of separation between storeroom and office, one or two things only may be brought to your notice, as examples of many in which the nature of the Commission is illustrated, and the order, efficiency, and economy of its arrangements are blended.

Observe this case with its numerous pigeon-holes for envelopes. Each pigeon-hole, as you see by the printed address on the envelopes they contain, represents a newspaper. Sixty papers in all are thus represented. This is part of a system for supplying these papers with facts and incidents from the ample correspondence of the Commission. When a letter received contains anything worthy of general publicity, it is copied in shape for publication, transferred for preservation and record to a book by a copying press, set up and printed in “slips,” struck off in numbers sufficient to send one slip to each paper, and sent off simultaneously to all. By this system the readers of the whole sixty different papers may have the same things at the same time from them all. This admirable system is under the management of Mr. J. Macfarland.

Here is another case with a full set of blanks for the entire system of reporting, and here the books in which complete records are preserved of all that comes in and all that goes out, with day, date, and names in all cases. Scrap-books, too, one set for circulars, another for newspaper articles, and another for



bills, and in short a complete system of books for everything, so arranged that an account of stewardship can be given, in any and all cases, with perfect accuracy.

In dismissing this matter, a glance of comparison is invited between what has here been seen represented, and the expense of it all for the year, as it may be gathered from the full and discriminating account of the Treasurer, given in its proper place.

Take, on the one hand, all these things, the ample, excellent room occupied, the many busy hands employed, the large amount of money received and paid out, the vast value and bulk of the year's aggregate of stores and publications, received and transmitted, or purchased and shipped, the extensive correspondence carried on, the boundlessness of both the field of supply at home and the field of work in the army, together with the perfect system and order preserved in and through all; and on the other hand, take the amazingly small amounts expended in salaries, agencies, rents and all; place the two side by side, and the comparison cannot fail to produce wonder and astonishment.

Glance again from these two things to a third, the aggregate of the year,—the extent, preciousness, and value of the work done in the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Cumberland, the Army of the Ohio, the Army of the Tennessee, and others, and on the great battle-fields, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and the rest, and in the camps and hospitals; the many lives saved, and souls converted to God, the hearts of the soldiers cheered and made strong, the homes gladdened and comforted, all by means of the work here represented, at an expense so amazingly small, and wonder and astonishment must be changed into gratitude to God and gladness of heart for such great and beneficent results, by an agency, which, in expending so little, has accomplished so much.

SELECTIONS  
OF  
PAPERS, INCIDENTS, AND LETTERS.

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**CONTRIBUTION OF MARY TALBOT SORLY, THROUGH  
THE PRESIDENT.**

LETTER, ADDRESSED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

January 29, 1863.

DEAR PRESIDENT:

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you. Ohio is my native State, and I so much wish to send a trifle in the shape of a £5 Bank of England note, to buy Bibles for the poor, wounded soldiers of the North, which I hope they may read.

Yours, very respectfully,

MARY TALBOT SORLY,  
Firecliff, Darby Dale, Derbyshire, England.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN TO MR. STUART.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,  
March 21, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR:

In accordance with the desire of the writer, I have the honor, by direction of the President, to send you the inclosed remittance, to be devoted to the purpose indicated in the letter accompanying.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN HAY,  
Asst. Private Sec'y.

Geo. H. STUART, Esq.

**THE "POCAHONTAS" PAPERS.**

THE following letter and the document accompanying, were addressed to Jos. Patterson, Esq., Treasurer of the United States.

Christian Commission, by a commander in the navy. With the letter came \$44 from the officers, and \$101 50 from the crew of the "Pocahontas," and a long "roll of honor" of the contributors, which was duly published in the weekly acknowledgments of the Commission. Contributions are also flowing in from many regiments in camp, to aid the good work of the Commission. When the noble men in our army and navy are manifesting such desire for Christian effort on their own behalf, and on behalf of their comrades, is it not time for those at home to enlarge and redouble their efforts?

U. S. STEAMER POCAHONTAS, OFF MOBILE, ALA.,  
April 24, 1863.

It is with grateful pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of the package containing Testaments and Christian papers, which I distributed among the crew of this ship on Sunday last, and I feel sure it will be gratifying to you to hear that they are attentively read by the men, who appear (many of them) to feel great interest in the Society, for its continuance and support.

God grant that the seed you have sown among our little community on board this ship may have fallen on good ground, and may bring forth much fruit.

On Monday, a meeting was organized and held on the deck by the crew; the minutes of which, together with the proceeds of contributions, have been given to me to transmit, which I feel much pride and pleasure in doing. The surplus inclosed has been contributed by two officers.

This meeting was a voluntary act of the crew. My sanction to hold it was asked only, and obtained. It was unattended and uninfluenced by myself, or any other officer.

With great respect, yours truly,

WM. M. GAMBLE,  
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

U. S. STEAMER POCAHONTAS, OFF MOBILE, ALA.,  
April 26, 1863.

By permission of our worthy captain, Lieut. Com. Wm. M. Gamble, a meeting was held on board this ship, for the purpose of aiding the United States Christian Commission. The meeting having been called to order, the following officers were

elected: Charles D. Humphrey, Chairman; Richard Howard, Vice-President; William White, Secretary.

The objects of the meeting having been explained by the Chairman, on the motion of the Secretary, Henry A. Meyenborg was introduced, and delivered the following address:

"The objects of the meeting having been fully explained by our worthy Chairman, I would call your attention to those papers distributed amongst us on Sunday last. In reading those papers you no doubt noticed the proceedings of a meeting held in the Musical Hall, in New York, and certainly must have derived pleasure to see that our military chieftains, General Winfield Scott, General Burnside, and other distinguished gentlemen of military and civil life, have yet some time left to care for the wants of those gallant men, of whom our army and navy consist. Noble as such great undertakings are, they certainly must fail unless firmly supported, as the expenses are immense. That those papers, pamphlets, &c., have done a great deal of good not one of us can deny; and allow me to add, that he who would dispute this is the enemy of morality and truth, and where the jurisdiction of the law of morality and truth is denied, there all laws and rules, civil and military, are in vain, and demoralization is at the threshold.

"An association formed upon principles that are permanent and uniform in the hearts of all men who are for truth and justice, the pillars upon which our Constitution rests, asks you to contribute, however little it may be, to aid this work for the benefit of our friends in the army and navy, and those who suffer from sickness or wounds in the hospitals. To such those papers will be welcome indeed; and, in asking you to contribute your share, I do not wish to be understood that I assume to beg of you to contribute. No. Whether or not to do this, let every man ask his own conscience; but I certainly have a right to add, that he who would even pause for one moment to aid an undertaking so noble, would also refuse twenty-five cents to the wounded soldier begging for bread or seeking for shelter against wind and storm; and who knows if those papers are not often the only bread for the wounded and sick in hospitals?

"I shall say no more, but only ask you to consider, whatever your donation may be, it is for those who fight for the Union

and Constitution, a Constitution so wisely contrived, so strongly raised, and so highly finished, that it is hard to speak with that praise of it which is justly and severely its due.

"Let us, my friends, always endeavor to demonstrate the elegant principles of that instrument and how dear it is to us, through a cheerful and harmonious concurrence in all noble undertakings which tend to cherish those who suffer from wounds received in defence of their country. Let us always endeavor to sustain, to repair, to beautify the charter of liberty, which solemn charge is intrusted to all those who march or sail under the American flag. The protection of American liberty is a duty which they owe to themselves who enjoy it, to our ancestors who fought for it, and to your posterity who will claim it at your hands, this, the best birthright and noblest inheritance of mankind, and who will bear a grateful remembrance to those who never stood back when called upon to cherish and protect those when they suffered in lonesome hospitals."

A motion having been made to receive the names of those who wished to contribute, the following came forward and subscribed:

Henry A. Meyenborg,	\$3 00	John Reed,	\$2 00
Richard Howard,	5 00	Morris McCarty,	2 00
Charles D. Humphrey,	3 00	John Kelly,	1 00
William White,	5 00	Robert T. Carter,	2 00
John W. Britton,	3 00	William Garner,	2 00
James J. Donohue,	5 00	John Clark,	5 00
William George,	5 00	Henry Korner,	2 00
John Atkin,	3 00	Richard Thompson,	2 50
Henry Seymour,	5 00	Charles D. Margerum,	5 00
Peter Smith,	2 00	Roger McGrath,	3 00
Warren Kimball,	5 00	James Huckins,	2 00
Peter C. Collins,	5 00	John B. Sullivan,	2 00
Arthur Brock,	3 00	Francis Comte,	1 00
Dean S. Sears,	5 00	George Law,	5 00
Thomas S. Smith,	2 00	John Brooks,	1 00
William Miles,	2 00		
Gustavus Greenhalgh,	3 00	Total,	\$101 50

CHARLES D. HUMPHREY,

Chairman.

WILLIAM WHITE,

Secretary.

**Rev. J. Wilson Ward, Jr., at Culpeper Court-house.**

"O! for a drink of tea."

Once, when I had distributed all my store of tea among the sick and wounded cavalrymen, just as I was going away empty-handed, I heard a voice asking if I had any more tea. "No," I said, "it is all gone." "O, I did want some," he replied. "I would give five dollars for a drink of tea!" I could not resist an appeal so urgent. I returned to the store-room, where, fortunately, I found a new supply, and, coming back, gave him all he wanted. These *little* things are remembered and treasured up.

**Human Sympathy.**

Says a delegate: "The poor fellows would frequently cry like children, while I talked with them and ministered unto them. Most of them are having a pretty hard time in defending our Union for us, and they crave sympathy, they hunger for it; and therefore they weep when the delegate of the Christian Commission comes and takes hold of their hand, and sits down and talks with them about home and loved ones."

**Hospital Work.**

The hospital generally makes men tender and impressible to Divine truth. Its effect on the delegate who labors there is salutary and strengthening. To see the various phases of religious feeling and experience, and to administer admonition, consolation, direction and instruction, are the solemn things of the soul, and judgment and eternity must make their mark upon the Christian who moves and labors in the midst of such an atmosphere. One delegate writes of a West Tennessee man, whose home had been burned by the Southerners for his refusal to take the oath of allegiance, and whose subsequent enlistment in our army had ended in imprisonment at Belle Isle. In all these trials his hold upon Christ had not slackened. It remained firm, immovable. Says the delegate, "*It strengthened my own grasp to see him cling!*"

**Lodging a Lieutenant-Governor.**

The same delegate records, that an intelligent-seeming man, from Vermont, spent the night with them at Warrenton, in

search of his sick son, who was a captain. Before he left, they found that they had been entertaining the Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Vermont. He was very grateful, and said that he would speak a good word for the Commission when he returned home.

To this delegate's report the statement should be added, to complete the record, that the Lieutenant-Governor has been as good as his word; for besides all he may have said and done elsewhere and in other ways, he prepared the way for one of the noblest demonstrations Vermont has made for the United States Christian Commission, and aided in it.

#### **The Christian Captain.**

Rev. H. Houston, of Maine, laboring in the Army of the Potomac (August and September, 1863), speaks of a pious captain, formerly a preacher, who aided greatly in the work of distributing papers and tracts, and other good reading matter. He came himself several times for matter to circulate among his men, until he was ashamed of the frequency of his calls, and sent a soldier for a number of Testaments, very much needed, to supply each of his men with a copy. This captain often acted the part of chaplain to the regiment. The Christian Commission answered his demands with the generous supplies that had been furnished them.

#### **Strangers Entertained.**

The accommodations of the Commission were freely used by friends visiting the army on sorrowful errands, seeking sick and dead relations. The Rev. Mr. Houston speaks of two women who were lodged in the Commission's tent, who would have been compelled to remain out all night but for these accommodations, so freely offered. Early the next morning, one of these poor stricken ones arrived just in time to see the burial service performed over the remains of her deceased son. The other found her husband recovering.

#### **Pentecostal Baptism of a New Station.**

Rev. W. L. Tisdale, of New York, writes from the station, in

the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

"This is a new station. I preached the first sermon here. The chapel was crowded, and also the space for twenty or thirty feet around the door. From that day to this, very stormy weather excepted, the chapel has been crowded at every service. The first time opportunity was given, eight or ten men expressed desire for the prayers of Christians in their behalf; and every time since, as many have embraced each opportunity. Sometimes twenty, and one evening twenty-five, asked prayers.

"I can hardly tell the number of conversions in the brigade since we came; but from all I can learn, there have been, during the four weeks since the station was started, several hundred led to serious reflection, and about one hundred converted and reclaimed."

#### **A Discouraged Chaplain Encouraged.**

"The brigade has one chaplain. I am told he was very much disheartened, and had thought seriously of resigning. When, however, the men began to seek Christ, he began to work with new courage. His chapel, built by the soldiers, with roof and stove furnished by the Christian Commission, became a Bethel to his men and a glad place to his own soul."—*From the same.*

#### **The Drummer-Boy and his Ten.**

"In our first or second meeting at this new station, a drummer-boy of the 146th New York Volunteers was deeply impressed, began to cry to God for mercy and salvation, and soon came happily into the light. At once he began praying specially for a young friend. He, too, was converted to God. Then the two united their prayers for a third, who was soon won to Jesus. They all joined in prayer for a fourth one of their comrades successfully, and the four for a fifth; and so they kept on until now the drummer-boy tells me that ten of their company are already happy in the love of Christ and hope of heaven newly found."—*From the same.*

#### **The Coverless Bible Found, and Salvation Found by It.**

A fine young man of the 140th New York Volunteers says that his parents and some of his brothers and sisters are pious;



but he himself never would read the Bible,—could not remember that he had ever read a chapter in it till last fall. When General Meade fell back before Lee, near Warrenton he found a Bible, lost or thrown away, with its cover gone, and thought he would read it. He was soon affected by its truth. His profanity had been awful, and his temper ungovernable. When he came to this neighborhood he attended the meetings at our chapel, and soon sought and found the Saviour. He appears to be a true Christian. His temper is subdued; he prays instead of swearing, and the change of his heart is so great that it is an astonishment to himself. What a joy must this be to the praying home-circle in his own father's house!

### Who being Dead Yet Speaketh.

Rev. A. B. Russell, of Maine, gives the following amongst other interesting incidents:

"A young man, H. G. M——, of the Sixteenth Massachusetts, related some remarkable circumstances of his life. In his first public remarks as a Christian convert, he said, 'I enjoyed religious influences at home; but early in life, while yet a mere boy, I left home and became a seafarer. Three times I have sailed round the world. I fought in the British war in China, and now I am here a soldier in the Federal army. I am a thousand miles from home.' Having got thus far, home recollections seemed to rush in upon him, his utterance choked, and, in a flood of tears, he completely broke down and stopped. The meeting went on. At the close, I presented him with a Narrative of the Last Days and Death of Captain Bate, at the Battle of Canton. Taking it, he said, 'I was with that man, and saw him when he received his mortal wound.' The Christian hero, though dead, was still speaking to his now Christian soldier, from the far side of the globe."

### Sublime Resignation.

"As I entered a hospital, my attention was drawn to an elderly soldier in the first ward in a sitting posture. His appearance was patriarchal—Abrahamic. His gray locks were combed back, and fell in profusion upon his shoulders; while his countenance wore a benign expression, like one in serene repose. When I

approached him, he told briefly his tale of affliction whilst tears coursed down his face. 'When the war begun, I entered the army with my two eldest sons. I am here; they are gone. Both died in the service of the country. I was in the seven days' fight before Richmond with my two brave sons. We covered the retreat. I have suffered all the ills of camp and march, and am now disabled. I should like to go home. But if I never go home, I shall meet my friends again.' Every tone and every feature said, 'Thy will be done, O God, not mine.' I there learned a lesson of patience never to be forgotten."—*From the same.*

#### **The Kind of Work Done at Gettysburg.**

"The delegates of the Christian Commission were the first helpers on the ground after the battle. At the Second Corps Hospital, two delegates arrived on Saturday, July 4th, and several more of us arrived on Sabbath morning, July 5th. We gave ourselves to the work of distributing cordials and bread and clothing to the wounded and the dying. We gave them water, bound up their wounds, made them as comfortable as possible, and thus ministering to the bodily wants of the poor men, also pointed their souls to Christ. Soon the cry was for bread. Some of the delegates went to town and represented the need to some farmers, who had a load, and prevailed upon them to go themselves with it and see the necessity. They came, they saw, they gave it all. How grateful the hungry boys were! 'God bless you.' 'God bless the Christian Commission.' 'This is like home.' 'Oh, how good!' rang out as we passed along. Thus our work continued for days. We fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, bound up the wounds of the wounded, changed the position of the suffering, and breathed consolation to the disheartened and dying. Nor did we neglect the souls of the suffering soldiers. We reached the heart and touched the affections. We sang, we prayed, we talked at their request. We repeated these exercises from evening to evening in the tents where they would desire. They joined in the song and dropped the tear, and often responded 'Amen.' Many, I trust, were born into the kingdom on that groaning ground. Many went up to glory saying, 'Jesus,

receive my spirit.' 'Have mercy on me, a sinner.' 'Save, Lord.' We preached Christ and Him crucified; and the dying sought Christ and Him alone.

"I knew not where to begin to give the incidents of interest. They met us every hour. Officers and men, the stout-hearted and the tender boy, the convicted and the backslider, all came to our notice, and we found among them cases of absorbing interest. Among the rebels, too, we found the Christian heart, the seeking soul, the loyal man forced to fight, and the doubtful man who had chosen because he must choose or suffer. But I will not specify now. The Christian Commission is doing a great work. May God bless it till there shall be no more war in the land."—*J. E. Adams.*

#### **He Couldn't Go Home a Sinner.**

F. B. PERKINS, Camp Parole, writes:

"A man came into my tent. I closed the entrance, and sat down with him on my bed. He then poured out his heart. He had been a sailor for many years, and had been a very wicked man. He had served his time (two years), and was only waiting for his papers to be made out for home. 'But,' said he, 'I'm going home again a sinner.' 'No,' said I, 'my brother, you need not go home an unpardoned sinner. Jesus is ready to save you. You need not be undecided a moment,' &c. God's spirit affected him powerfully. We kneeled together, and I tried to pray, but could not for his interruptions, as he would continually break forth with, 'O God, help me! Forgive me this once, for Christ's sake, and I will do better.' He was in an agony, and poured out his soul, with strong crying and tears, unto God. Before parting, he promised to live for Jesus, come light or come darkness. In the evening meeting, he made known his determination publicly, and in homely but earnest words related his experience. Said he: 'I am going to change, and serve God. I promised faithfully this morning that I would, and I mean to keep my word faithful.' He seems really a changed man.

### Prayer-Meeting in a Graveyard near Falmouth, Va.

Two Christian soldiers of the Seventh Michigan Regiment, besides laboring in the evening meetings, sought a quiet spot in the graveyard behind the village church, where many of their comrades lay beneath the sod, and there, on a flat tombstone, they poured out their hearts before God. Soon their prayers were heard. Others joined them. Some anxious ones heard of it and attended, and in that sacred, silent spot found the Saviour. The meeting was kept up till the army moved.

### The Sergeant's Experience.

The REV. J. WILSON WARD, JR., laboring in the Army of the Potomac, speaks enthusiastically of the interest and delight that clusters around the soldiers' prayer-meetings in his stations. The meetings at Camp Convalescent were specially solemn, and often wonderful in the degree of tender interest that marked them. The experience of the conversion of a Pennsylvania sergeant, related by himself, was very striking. Said he: "I found the Saviour ten years ago. I was proud. I didn't want to yield. The arrow of conviction rankled in my heart for six months. One morning, I went out to yoke my oxen to go and get some wood. I knew I was a sinner. I felt awfully.

"I had put the yoke upon the off ox. The other lay at a little distance chewing his cud. I did not speak to him. I simply lifted the yoke, and he got up, and bowed his head quietly and received the yoke upon his bare neck.

"Somehow the incident went to my soul. I could not forget it. It was meeting-night, and I went. I thought it strange that the man of God should take for his text, 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls.'

"At once I thought of the ox and the yoke, and I said, 'That means me!' And as the preacher held up the yoke of the Gospel I came forward, bent my knee and meekly bowed my head; and O! the Saviour placed his yoke upon me, and I have worn it ever since. Truly it is as Jesus said: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' "

### The Cook-House Bethel.

REV. H. C. HOWLAND, Windmill Point Hospital, February, 19, 1863, writes:

"The first two Sabbaths I spent here did not seem at all sacred. Last Sabbath, however, was different. The brethren of the Christian Commission kept holyday sacredly and solemnly. Leave was obtained to occupy a vacant cook-house as a place of worship. Three soldiers were kindly detailed to aid in procuring a stove, seats, &c. A carpenter made me an arm-chair, and a table was procured. With barrels sawed in two, and scantling, and hospital bedsteads, we made seats enough, and the house was ready.

"The rain, which beat upon our tent as the morning dawned, was unwelcome, and brought disappointment. We anticipated a failure. But God had in reserve for us a signal and glorious success. At 10 A. M., Brother Pitcher, a delegate from Washington, preached. Forty-five were present. I was requested to preach at 2½ P. M. Sixty were present then. In the evening the house was packed. Over two hundred were present. It was a meeting for prayer and conference; and after three hours it was difficult to close the meeting. *Fifty-one* rose to express a desire for the prayers of God's people. The Holy Spirit was there. The soldiers seemed overjoyed. Many said it was the first opportunity of attending a religious service they had enjoyed since being in the army. Many took once more a stand for God. They showed their colors in the presence of their comrades. It was a joyful day, both for the soldiers and the delegates. Thus was Sabbath-day worship inaugurated in this hospital, and in the cook-house, set apart *pro tempore* from a common to a sacred use; and it became a true Bethel, a house of God, and the gate of heaven to some souls."

### Promptness on the Field.

J. D. BUGLESS, of Pawtucket, R. I., says, that he was the *fourth* member of the Commission on the Gettysburg field. He also says that the Commission "was in efficient operation two entire days before the Sanitary Commission or the Medical Purveyor were in any condition to offer any relief to the suffering and dying." He further says: "Its excellency (the Commis-

sion), as a relief to physical suffering, has no equal, aside from the Surgical Corps of the Army: Its excellence, in a spiritual point of view, is unapproached by anything else in the service. Its promptness and efficiency certainly were instruments of salvation, temporal and spiritual, to scores and hundreds on the Gettysburg field alone during the first two weeks succeeding the battle."

#### Stores in Immense Quantities Needed.

SILAS M. GIDDING, of Brooklyn, writes from the Gettysburg field: "When the people at the North hear that the Christian Commission have two hundred delegates on this field, and *two car-loads* of comforts arriving every day, for those who have perilled their lives in support of their country, they seem to think that enough has been done; but to those of the delegates who arrived the first week, our supplies and unwearied labors seemed only as a 'drop in the bucket,' so great was the suffering and want of the wounded and the dying."

#### Testimonies of Delegates to the Want and Worth of the Christian Commission.

IRA WALDRON, *Department of the Cumberland*. "The work of the Christian Commission is of such inestimable worth to the soldiers, that it should receive the hearty support of every Christian, not only in our own land, but in the whole world."

S. E. BRIDGMAN, *Army of the Cumberland*. "The army welcome us and are glad, yea, more than glad, to get religious reading and to be talked to about home, heaven, and God. A soldier's heart is easily reached by any one who approaches him with a warm, loving manner, and in the spirit of Christ."

REV. W. H. H. MARSH, *at Gettysburg*. "I have always thought highly of the Christian Commission; but since I have seen its practical workings among the suffering, and have been honored with the privilege of laboring as one of its delegates, I think of it with intensified interest."

REV. JOSEPH WARD, *Department of the Susquehanna* (Hagerstown). "The soldiery had lost much of their clothing in battle, and what was left was covered with blood and filth. Thus our stores of clothing were brought into use at once. The surgeons

were poorly supplied with medical stores, and we were able to supply this lack to a degree by the stimulants with which we were provided."

### The Character of the Work.

JOSEPH B. IVES, *Fairfax Court-house*. "Cavalry being so different from infantry, and always liable to be called out on scouting duty, we were obliged to embrace every and any opportunity of visiting the regiments the moment it was offered. I have many a time held prayer-meetings when we expected all the time to hear the call of 'boot and saddle;' but I have never been interrupted."

### The East Tennesseans.

F. H. BOYNTON, *General Field Hospital, Murfreesboro*, says of them: "They read their Bibles 'right smart' when they had them at home; but they could only get away with their lives, and were greatly pleased when I furnished them with the bread of life."

A young man from East Tennessee very frankly told me in his peculiar way, that "he knew he had been powerfully wicked since he came into the army, but he was going to do a heap better;" and when I asked him if he would like to have me leave him a Testament, both of his hands, which were under the coverlet of the bed, were quickly withdrawn, and he took the book with that mingled look of astonishment and pleasure which we sometimes see depicted upon the face. This is the way the men receive the Gospel. They hunger and thirst for the bread of life.

### Letter from Rev. Henry Powers.

"MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE, May 26.

"The work in this army (of the Cumberland) is growing mightily on our hands. The Spirit of God is being poured out. Generals high in command, as well as multitudes of soldiers, are inquiring the way to be saved. Delegates are holding prayer-meetings and preaching services, at hospitals, in camps, and at the headquarters of Major-Generals, which in numerous cases

are attended by a thousand to fifteen hundred men; and on one occasion over five hundred rose for prayers. We have a daily Union prayer-meeting, at the office-rooms of the Christian Commission, at which there are new cases of conversion every day, and many backsliders have been reclaimed. Last Sabbath, just at this post, our delegates preached thirty-one times, and held prayer-meetings in different regiments, and the Spirit of God seemed to be present. The same glorious work is also going on at Nashville. I have not the least hesitation in saying, that if we had to-day a hundred men and sufficient supplies, in the Army of the Cumberland, the Spirit of the Lord would still far outstrip them in their most fervent efforts. The impression seems to have been made in some way—no doubt by the Holy Ghost—on the minds of all classes of men in this army, that *now* is God's accepted time for the temporal and spiritual salvation of the land. Is it not, then, time to work? Without doubt, this is, at present, the most promising field in the whole country for Christian effort."

#### The Earnest German.

REV. F. B. PERKINS, laboring at Camp Parole Hospital, Annapolis, Md., relates the following case of a sick German:

"I went into the ward one morning, and sat down by his bed. 'Well, how are you to-day?' 'Oh, pretty well here,' pointing to his bowels, which have been the seat of his disease. 'But O, I'm bad here!' pointing to his heart. I saw he was much affected, and wished, therefore, to see him alone. I said to him, 'Come around into my tent.' We started, but he could not wait until we reached the tent. 'Oh,' said he, 'te Good Spirit ish striving with me, but te bad spirit, he strive doo.' I gave him instruction that I thought suited to his case, and we kneeled in prayer. He burst forth in his mother tongue, so that I could not follow him, but he was in earnest, and I doubt not sincere, and God understood him. In the evening, at prayer-meeting, he kneeled again, and he seemed to forget, as he prayed, that others were around him. For some time he continued his earnest seeking, and he would daily go into the woods near by, although hardly able to walk, and taking a-companion, they would pray there together. It has been very



affecting to me to hear these sounds of earnest petition, as I have walked near the place. I do not know any one who seems to be a more hopeful case."

#### Character of Soldiers.

REV. A. CHANDLER, *Camp Stoneman, October 26*. "We find many earnest Christian men among the soldiers. They express the most heartfelt gratitude for the religious privileges they enjoy, and when opportunity is given, they are always ready to speak and pray."

#### Delight in the Labor, as Testified to by the Laborers.

JAMES V. BUTLER, *Department of Cincinnati*. "Whatever I have accomplished, my own heart has certainly been wholly in the work, and I have enjoyed it! God speed the work, for it is his own."

REV. H. D. WALKER, *Abington, Massachusetts. Army of the Potomac*. "In my ministry of twenty years, I have had no such period of active and blessed work."

REV. J. P. LUDLOW, *Gettysburg General Hospital*. This delegate becoming sick was obliged to leave the work sooner than he expected. He writes: "With the work becoming daily more and more interesting, and my heart hourly linked in closer sympathy with the heroic sufferers to whom I ministered, it was hard to leave—too hard to allow me to say to many of them, 'Adieu!'"

REV. W. S. KIMBALL, *Army of the Potomac*. "I have been very much pleased with the work; and have come home with a heart flowing with sympathy for the soldiers. An intimate acquaintance with the men, in many different circumstances, has increased my love for them, and for the work of the Christian Commission among them."

MYRON A. MUNSON, *Andover student, laboring at Camp Parole*. "I call up my soul and all that is within me to bless the Lord for permitting me to participate in the noble work of the Christian Commission. Again and again I have been permitted to gather fruit almost before I had sown the seed, to communicate

benefits, and to witness the joy and enjoy the gratitude which they excited, as well as to form very precious friendships with devout and amiable men,—all these things in a camp, which has been represented to be the wickedest place on this apostate planet.”

GEO. B. BUZELLE, *Falmouth*. “Being in the midst of the noise and confusion of the station for the transportation of men and supplies, we were nevertheless in the midst of our work. The wounded brought there for transportation to Aquia Creek and Washington, were sometimes kept waiting in the ambulances or laid on the open platform or on the ground close by our camp fire, which was seldom without its row of smoking kettles. To feed the hungry, worn-out men, to refresh and cheer them, to talk to them of Jesus Christ when our words seemed to coincide with the line of their own busy thoughts,—all this was a work to thank God for.

“One of the men thus lying out on the platform waiting for transportation said to me, ‘Who does all this?’ Perhaps I wasn’t proud then of the United States Christian Commission. Some might have thought ‘there’s no necessity of so many organizations for helping the soldiers.’ But the poor fellows who held out their old black tincups when we came around with a bucket of soup or coffee or tea, and clutched almost ravenously at the soft bread, they, I think, ‘couldn’t see it.’

“The prayers and singing in those cars will be remembered both by our delegates and the men themselves, who wept and sobbed aloud.”

#### Compensation Received.

G. R. BENT, laboring at Nashville, writes: “I have bathed the burning brows of many of our brave boys, and this with other work adds to the significance of life. One man asked me to-day what compensation I got. I answered, ‘The fact that you are made comfortable.’ The tears started in his eyes. He grasped my hand convulsively and said, ‘God bless you. Have you been nursing me here for days and nights without the hope of compensation?’ ‘Oh, no,’ I answered, ‘the word of God tells

me, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' 'Dear friend,' I continued, 'the prospect of heaven is pay enough for the present. The enjoyment of heaven through the unending cycles of eternity will more than compensate me for all I have done or can do for you and all sick soldiers, and I am paid—satisfied.' "

### Testimony for the Commission.

The same, *in Army of the Potomac*. "I could not enumerate all the eulogies pronounced on the Christian Commission. Suffice it to say, that one said in my hearing, 'The Christian Commission has done more for the army than any other instrumentality which has been employed.' Another said, 'Next to God and the Bible, I love the United States Christian Commission.' Another, when told that he must die in five minutes, said, '*Raise me on my knees, that I may pray for the originators and delegates of the Christian Commission.*' "

W. F. LOOMIS, *Army of the Cumberland*. "The work of the Christian Commission elicits the hearty sympathy and affection of the private soldiers. Many have said, 'We know that you of the Christian Commission love us, for you come and labor with us without pay.' Our papers, tracts, and Testaments are joyfully received, with only now and then an exception. Many of the boys beg for papers as the hungry beg for bread."

### Facilities Granted.

From the same. "I think the work of the Commission has the hearty co-operation of most of the commanders of corps and divisions in the Army of the Cumberland. They have frequently given their ambulances, carriages, and, in one case at least, the horse used upon the battle-field, for the use of members of the Commission. General McCook especially has been cordial, generous, and unwearied in his kindness to us, granting all we asked, and anticipating our wants and wishes. When I went to Stevenson, Alabama, to establish a station, General McCook gave me a letter to General Sheridan, asking him as a personal favor to give me all the facilities in

his power, and assuring him that the Commission were doing a noble, worthy work in the army. Of course, General Sheridan hastened with alacrity and the greatest apparent cheerfulness to meet the wishes of his commanding officer. General Davis also was very kind, saying, 'Just tell me what you wish and you shall have it.' The same is true of Generals Thomas, Negley, Crittenden, Johnson, and others. All of these were officers in command of corps or divisions. General McCook has no profanity at his headquarters. It is forbidden by his positive orders."

### Reaping in Joy.

REV. THOMAS A. LEETE writes from the Christian Commission Station, Artillery Brigade, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac:

"The following is submitted in illustration of the work of the Christian Commission:

"In the light artillery there are no chaplains. No religious services of a public nature are held. Should it be so? Many a soldier has told me that he has not heard a sermon for years; in some instances for three years. The consequences are obvious: the ungodly become bold in wickedness, and professing Christians, to a lamentable extent, backslide.

"When services commenced in our brigade, five weeks since, there were not ten soldiers in the six batteries composing the brigade that stood ready to engage heartily in Christian duties. Not that among the five hundred men there were not more than ten that were aiming to lead a Christian life; but so low was the state of religion that no one felt like encouraging another. No prayer-meetings were held, and if a hymn of praise was sung there were many who would jeer and ridicule. But since the Christian Commission tent has been erected in front of the batteries, the change has been wonderful. We first sowed most plentifully the good seed of truth among the batteries and in the tents, and withal spent much time in personal conversation with the cannoneers. This, in connection with a public service in our chapel-tent each night, began to act as leaven. Serious thought was awakened, and very soon serious inquiry. The importance of prayer was urged upon professing Christians, and very soon the promise was verified, 'Ask and ye shall receive.'

"For the first two or three weeks the work was interrupted

somewhat by a movement of the batteries at the battle of Morton's Ford, and some other changes; but for the last ten days, every night, when an appointment is made for prayer or preaching, our tent is full to overflowing of earnest worshippers.

"Officers and privates have said to me again and again, 'You are doing a far greater work here than you can have any idea of.' 'We can judge better than you.' Some twenty-five or thirty hopeful conversions have occurred already. Backsliders in still larger numbers have been reclaimed, and, as yet, the work is seemingly but just begun. The interest increases with each passing day; and if, for two weeks to come, the work advances as during the past two weeks, glorious results will be witnessed. Already we can but exclaim, What hath God wrought!

"Several cases of interest have come under my observation outside the artillery, in the infantry. I have spent much time in personal conversation with the soldiers—for this I find to be the best method of getting hold of men—and everywhere I find them accessible, and not only so, they desire to converse, many of them, upon the subject of personal piety; and all that is required is, that one should take them by the hand and lead them to Christ. Several instances of this kind I have met when out for a few hours in some regiment or hospital. I think I have abundant evidence for believing that a few words spoken in the manner above described, have resulted in an entire change in the life and character. 'A word fitly spoken, how good it is!'

"My last meeting at the station was a scene I shall never forget. The warm expressions of interest in our work, and in ourselves personally, coming from the lips of converts and reclaimed ones, showed us most conclusively that our work had not been in vain. It was the blessed fulfilment of the declaration, 'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.' One and another exclaimed, 'Where should I have been, what would have become of my poor soul, had not these brethren come and brought us the Gospel?'

"Without further particulars, this general statement illustrates the nature, necessity, and benefits of the Christian Commission. If there be 'joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth,' we may in the light of this truth read the importance of the Chris-

tian Commission enterprise. For the privilege of laboring for six weeks in this work, and for the blessed results witnessed, I feel devoutly thankful to my Redeemer."

### A Soldier's Appeal for a Bible.

CAMP NEAR ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA,  
March 7, 1864.

#### UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

DEAR SIRS: By sending me a Bible, you will place me under lasting obligations to yourselves and the great and good cause for which you are laboring. I wish while serving my country to serve my God also. This is the only method I know of at present of getting a Bible. It would be a dear companion to me under my present state of mind. I have resolved to become a Christian, let the world say what it will.

With respect, I am yours,

In faith, hope, and charity,

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### Incidents

Noted by S. L. Holman during Service as Delegate of Christian Commission.

"Sabbath morning, dedicated our chapel-tent to the service and worship of Almighty God, preaching from Isaiah 4:5. At the close of service, a few Christians gathered around me to make themselves known as disciples of Christ. 'We are Christians, but have lived like heathens,' said one. 'I have not heard but one sermon since May,' said another, 'and that was from a delegate of the Christian Commission.' Oh, how glad I am of this privilege!

"After the evening service had closed, and the lights were out, a few came to me and earnestly begged the privilege of going into the tent once more for a prayer-meeting. 'I thought,' remarked one, 'I was almost the only Christian in the encampment; but I have found to-night several others, and we want to have a prayer-meeting.' 'Certainly,' said I; and a prayer-meeting they did have.

"Answer to prayer: 'I was converted at Camp Convalescent, and came here fearing I would be alone and friendless. I prayed God for the enjoyment of religious privileges, and the

next day saw the chapel-tent of the Commission going up, and now I am able to attend worship.' Another said, 'We had no place for meetings, and we used to go out among the bushes, and three or four of us would pray for ourselves and comrades; now we can pray here.'

"March 8d. After I had retired, a knock was heard, and, as my assistant opened the door, a young man asked to see the minister. I was awakened and called him to my bedside. His story was: 'I had a pious mother, who often put her hand upon my head and said, "Charles, I hope you will live to be a bishop."' But I lived a wicked, sinful life, till God called my attention to your sermon last Sunday, so that I felt constrained to write down all I could remember. I came to your evening meetings, and to-night I started to seek the Lord. Do pray for me, do.' Friday evening he came, bringing a companion, to my tent, saying, 'This is our color-bearer, a dear friend; he has risen for prayers. Please pray for him.' I asked him about his own conversion, and he said it was thus: 'I took my Testament, walked out into the woods, knelt down, read, prayed, and while praying God spoke peace to my soul. I went and told my unconverted messmates about it, and asked the privilege of having daily worship in our tent. They consented, and promised to attend. I have it, and by the grace of God I mean to persevere.'

"A young man was brought under conviction at our first evening meeting. He went home and tried to drive off his convictions by playing checkers and gambling. The next evening, while listening to preaching, that checker-board was continually before his mind. Finally he determined, if God would spare him to reach his tent, he would spoil that checker-board. After meeting he went home, took out the board, and smashed it with his heel into fragments. Next evening he sought the Lord, and is now happy.

"Another said, 'I have gambled for the last time. I threw my dice into the fire. I now love my Saviour. Blessed be God.'"

#### **A Brother Found on the Battle-field.**

The following thrilling incident, from the pen of the Rev. John Hall of Dublin, is the substance of an appeal for the esta-

blishment of an orphan asylum in Ireland. Sixty thousand copies have been published on the other side of the water, and the interest attaching to it, as representing the work of the United States Christian Commission, must touch powerfully every American heart. If no other fact or result had been reached by the contributions and efforts of Christian friends, still there would be enough encouragement here and enough recompense for all that has been done or can be done :

“A father lay dying in a country parish in County Down, in Ireland. His wife, so ill herself that any one else would have been in bed, was striving vainly and weakly to comfort and ‘mind’ him. The poor children, four in number, stricken with fear, looked helplessly from one to another and wept. Almost without result did the worthy minister strive to touch the dying man and the desolate family with the kind words of Christ’s peace. The hours passed on so until the father died, and the wife and children, for earth at least, were left ‘widow and fatherless.’ ‘Almost orphans,’ said the mother, as she looked on the children ; another week, and they were so altogether. The children were alone. Then they were scattered : the youngest girl went with a good neighbor ; John and Lizzie were put into new homes, and sustained by the Parish Orphan Society ; and the eldest, Willie, the minister took and put to school. Sad enough separation already ; but more awaited them. When John was twelve years of age he went to America. Lizzie promised to follow him soon ; but her journey was a longer one to be—from earth to Christ, whom she loved. Sadly they laid her away. Her only remembrance in her brothers’ hearts was her love ; and far over the sea Johnny had a hymn-book of hers which she had given him when he went to the New World.

“Time passed on. William received a good education, and was led, in God’s providence, to consider the subject of devoting himself to the work of the ministry. The way, however, was not clear ; and when a place in an office in Cincinnati was offered to him, he felt that he could no longer be a burden on the worthy clergyman who had been so kind to him, and so he sailed to America. The earnestly formed resolution to be a minister still remained, and even now God was opening the way. His em-



ployer being a large subscriber to one of the theological seminaries, introduced William to it, and so he had all his purposes confirmed. Already the noble work of the ministry appeared close to him. Alas! not yet. War was proclaimed. The seminary was practically broken up, not a few students becoming soldiers. What should he do? He did not see his way clear to enlist, and so in suspense and doubt he waited.

"From Boston, to which a college friend had invited him, he was watching the tide of war roll over the land, when a turn was given to his plans by a visit from the president and organizer of the Christian Commission, who told the story of camp suffering, of seed sown on bloody battle-fields, of the need of delegates, and the good they did among the sick and dying. Here was work for William Henry, and ere many weeks had passed, he was in the train of the army and moving the wounded after every engagement. He was now a minister indeed in everything but the name. The Lord, his Father, had led him by a way that he knew not.

"After a sharp encounter, in which the Southern troops left many of their wounded on the field, William was engaged in relieving and ministering to them. The night was nearly spent, and all for whom there was any hope of life had been provided for, and now he turned again to the dying. A youth attracted his notice by his silent and uncomplaining endurance. 'Where are you hurt, my poor fellow?' he said, as he moistened his lips from the small canteen he carried, and turned his lamp on his pale face. 'Bullet-wound through the chest. I am dying,' was the reply. 'And what hope have you?' 'None, unless God will forgive me for his Son's sake.' 'Then you know about his Son.' 'Oh, yes, for many a year, and of late I hope I trust Him.' 'Of late?' 'Yes; I was an orphan, and when I came here I had none to care for me. The sight of sin and death about me set me to think of myself, and brought back what I learned at home. I have many a time put my soul into Jesus' care, and I trust Him now, Him only.'

"There was nothing for William to do but to encourage this confidence. 'Have you any friends to whom you would like to send word? I can write for you.' 'No, no friends but in heaven. I was an orphan.' Twice he had said this. 'And I was

an orphan, too,' said William. 'I can feel for you. Had you no relations?' 'Yes, I had a brother and two sisters in Ireland; but I never wrote to them after coming here. My sister was Lizzie; here is her hymn-book;' and he took it from his bosom. He was now too weak and agitated to see the effect his words produced on his attendant, who read, by the light of his lamp, '*Given to Elizabeth Henry for good conduct.*' 'What is your name?' eagerly asked William. 'John Henry. I am from County Down, in Ireland.' It was as much as William could do to restrain himself. But that ebbing life was before him, and checked him. There was his own wandering brother. God had made him a minister indeed,—had sent him to give the cup of cold water, and to get the assurance that the poor wandering orphan, whose heart had withered for want of human love, had been found of God, and been opened by the Divine tenderness.

"To carry the dying youth to his own camp-bed, make himself known gently, and tell him the story of Lizzie's departure, to nurse him and cheer him, to gaze on his features and trace the old lineaments, to read and pray with him, these were the occupations of the day and night that life, held back awhile from the grave by his coming, remained; and when he died his brother's arm was under his pillow; but, better still, the Eternal was his refuge, and underneath him the everlasting arm. Only one thing remains to be told. William has a firmer confidence than ever in a Father in heaven. A letter has been received from him by his sister, expressing a hope that she will go out to him when the war is over, and when he hopes to be a minister. The old man, to whom she has grown up as a daughter, has had it read to him times without number. He sees in it the clear working of his Father's hand, and takes comfort, in prospect of losing the child he trained for God, in saying that He will take care of her also. Nor is the good old man quite indifferent to the circumstances that William hopes to be a minister of his own church in America."

**A Harvest Ripe.—Where are the Reapers?**

STATION OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN,

General Secretary of the United States Christian Commission.

ONE of the requests of the Chairman of the Commission was, that I write you or himself often as convenient. When one gets into the work of the delegate and finds so much to do, he does not feel much like writing letters, except so far as absolute duty demands, or there is a fair prospect of enlisting the sympathies or material aid of those not informed as to the great blessing of the Christian Commission. I have not felt at liberty to take time to write to you, when perhaps I could not tell you anything new. But really there are new experiences all the while, new cases of thrilling interest all the while, every day,—all but every hour. Every feeling of a Christian heart becomes enlisted to lead these men to the heart of Christ the Saviour. In the hospitals, by the wayside, in the camp, barracks, or elsewhere, one meets such cases all but at every turn. After getting here, for example, I established a meeting at Camp Convalescent. After preaching, I asked those who were Christians to rise. Some twelve rose. I then asked those who wished to become Christians to rise. Some thirty rose. On last Thursday, at that same camp, when those present who wanted the immediate blessing of heaven upon their hearts, were asked to kneel, some one hundred and fifty of the two hundred knelt, and the rest, in spite of their being ashamed of Jesus, were anxious to become his friends. Last Saturday, a soldier called, who said he wished to see me. I took him aside. He said he had been very wicked. He wanted to change his course and give his heart to Christ. We knelt in prayer; he prayed and I prayed. He left in tears, I trust at the feet of Christ. Soon as he left another came, wanting a shirt, a minister's son. He was supplied, and spoken to about the garment that Christ supplies to sinful men. He left with the full resolve to be a Christian. I met four men bound for the cars going on front, on my way to a certain meeting. I asked them about their personal state before God, gave them Testaments, and pointed them to the promise of Christ in Matthew 11:28, and implored Christ to give them rest. I expect to meet them in heaven. To-day, I was asked to call on two men who must soon

die. Neither was prepared; one I had seen before; the other a Catholic. Oh, the wisdom of God alone is sufficient to lead the mind to Christ! Two wounded men these. Christ lead them to his own heart! They die for their country. God bless them! Every day cases of this sort meet one. The gracious Spirit is moving upon every heart. They only want to be taught how to come to Christ. Your delegate only wishes he could multiply himself ten-fold, and do and pray, and point to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. The backslider is being reclaimed, and the sinner is coming to Christ. We want more laborers. Your excellent field agent here is troubled that more do not come. We are all troubled about it; we pray about it, think about it, dream about it. So much to do, so few to do it. If ministers at home only knew, they would surely come directly to Knoxville. They would not stop on the way to see sights, or to labor here awhile and there another while. No, no! If they only knew just the demand here, they could not rest till they got here. Two men leave us to-morrow for home, pleasant home. One has just come in the ten o'clock train. Thank God for that! the field is so white for the harvest. O do not forget this distant point! Send men and means. For this we pray, for this we look.

I am, dear sir, yours most truly,

HUGH MCLEOD,

Delegate of the United States Christian Commission.

#### **Great Benefits from Publications Distributed.**

MANY a case of conversion has been reported to us, as having resulted from the reading of a single knapsack-book or tract, given to a soldier by the Commission.

At Camp Stoneman, for example, a delegate gave to a soldier "The Old Gentleman's Telescope." The soldier had been at the extreme front in the cavalry service, and had been without religious privileges from the beginning of the war.

He had as yet attended no meeting at the camp. No one had spoken to him about his salvation.

He took the "Telescope" to his tent, read it, was convinced, and led to Jesus. Sought the delegate and told him about it. The sole means of the work used by the Holy Spirit was this little book.

Many, many, have in this way been led to the Saviour, by the books, papers and tracts distributed by the Commission through its delegates and the chaplains of the army.

Many, many, have also been reclaimed, and brought to stand up anew for Jesus, in the panoply of his grace.

The following letter gives an instance which is quite remarkable in some of its features, though only a fair illustration, in the main one, of a man reclaimed, a soul saved from destruction.

Delicacy to the officer so signally benefited requires us to withhold names.

CAMP OF THE — VOLS., NEAR CULPEPER COURT-HOUSE.

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN:

Dear Sir: It is very gratifying to me to be able to vouch for the following facts. An officer in our regiment, who years since was a minister of the Gospel, but who had forsaken the fountain of purity, has just been reclaimed.

Despite kindly admonitions, he for a year and a half has been foremost in scenes of conviviality, given to profanity, drinking, &c. From the Christian Commission I obtained a copy of the "Blood of Jesus," by Rev. William Reid. Feasting my own soul on its precious words, I baptized it with tears and prayers, and gave it to the officer, begging him to read and heed it.

That book saved a soul from death. The backslider is reclaimed, and publicly and privately tells what God has done for him. Perfectly consistent for weeks, I am sure God will keep him to the end. His only song is the blood of Jesus. He says, "When in past years I preached the word, had I known what I know now about the blood of Jesus, how much easier and more certainly could I have won souls to Christ!" Yesterday, to one of the most stringent temperance pledges he put his name: "— —, Lt. Col., in the strength of Jesus." So much for the transforming power of the Cross.

Your Brother in Christ,

F — B — R —,

Chaplain — Vols.

The great want of the army to-day is reading matter, suitable in quality and sufficient in quantity.

The Christian Commission cannot command a tithe of the means required to furnish it.



CASH RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF CENTRAL OFFICE, AND  
BRANCHES HAVING A LOCAL FIELD TO SUPPORT.

NAME.	Total receipts, 1863, and bal- ance on hand, 1862.	Expended by Committees, 1863.	Remitted to, and purchases on account of Central Office.	Balance on hand Dec. 31., 1863.
PORTLAND, Army Com- mittee Y. M. C. A., .	\$3,201 08	\$214 31	\$2,342 78	\$643 99
BOSTON, Army Com- mittee Y. M. C. A., .	78,220 34	9,121 22	64,576 85	4,522 27
NEW YORK, N. Y. Com- mittee, . . . . .	58,542 49	28,373 40	14,002 41	16,166 68
BUFFALO, Army Com- mittee Y. M. C. A., .	3,361 21	284 53	1,650 00	1,426 68
Ladies' Christian Commission, . . . .	4,168 40	1,593 57	1,600 00	974 83
PHILADELPHIA, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	9,302 01	1,945 49	7,176 84	179 68
BALTIMORE, Commit- tee of Maryland, . .	14,600 76	13,218 63		1,382 13
HARRISBURG, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	2,376 51	247 36	2,129 15	
PITTSBURG, Committee of Western Penna., .	22,732 56	13,684 13	1,481 05	7,567 38
CINCINNATI, Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C., .	21,010 22	6,781 65	1,286 91	12,941 66
LOUISVILLE, Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C., .	436 95	236 90		200 05
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana Branch U. S. C. C., .	703 84	82 33		621 51
PEORIA, Army Com- mittee Y. M. C. A., .	1,654 15	881 35		772 80
CHICAGO, N. Western Branch U. S. C. C., .	8,182 29	5,806 14	2,003 37	372 78
DETROIT, Army Com- mittee, . . . . .	3,478 75	500 52	2,300 00	678 23
St. Louis, St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C., .	5,108 81	3,572 49	506 39	1,029 93
	\$236,822 29	\$86,544 02	\$100,797 67	\$49,480 60
CENTRAL OFFICE AT PHILADELPHIA. Receipts as per pub- lished acknowledg- ments, \$222,214 67 Less am't credited to Local Com'tte, 100,797 67	121,417 00	\$178,667 26		43,547 41
Total for 1863, .	\$358,239 29	\$265,211 28		\$93,028 01
Total for 1862, .	40,160 29	40,160 29		
Total for 1862 and '63,	\$398,399 58	\$305,371 57		

PACKAGES SHIPPED, STORES DONATED, AND VALUE OF SAME, WITH  
NUMBER OF DELEGATES SENT.

NAME.	Boxes shipped to field, or distributed at home.	Boxes donated.	Value of donated Boxes.	Delegates sent.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AT PHILADELPHIA,		3,292	\$163,610 24	514
Hospital stores, 5,074				
Publications, 1,617	6,691			
PORTLAND. Army Committee				
Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	25	130	300 00	
BOSTON. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	573	1,135	85,125 00	193
NEW YORK. N. Y. Committee U. S. C. C., . . . . .				63
BUFFALO. Ladies' Christian Commission, . . . . .		278	5,155 04	3
BALTIMORE. Committee of Maryland, . . . . .	1,575	1,045	25,000 00	215
GETTYSBURG, . . . . .	1,057	1,057	26,130 00	
WASHINGTON, . . . . .	548	548	12,040 00	
HARRISBURG. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	65	65	2,600 00	3
PITTSBURG. Committee of Western Pennsylvania, . . . . .	836	681	45,708 79	73
CINCINNATI. Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C., . . . . .	400	325	14,000 00	48
LOUISVILLE. Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C., . . . . .	328	225	1,000 00	5
INDIANAPOLIS. Indiana Branch U. S. C. C., . . . . .	4			4
PEORIA. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	154	158	3,100 00	6
CHICAGO. N. W. Branch U. S. C. C., . . . . .	142	112	1,000 00	41
DETROIT. Army Committee, . . . . .	239	239	1,000 00	9
ST. LOUIS. St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C., . . . . .	11	11	60 00	30
Total for 1863, . . . . .	12,648	9,301	\$385,829 07	1207
Total for 1862, . . . . .	3,691	2,932	142,150 00	356
Total for 1862 and 1863, . . . . .	16,339	12,233	\$527,979 07	1563



## PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED BY BRANCH AND CENTRAL OFFICES.

NAME OF COMMITTEE.	Copies of Scriptures.	Hymn and Psalm Books.	Keeseck Books.	Library Books.	Magazines and Pamphlets.	Religious Newspapers.	Pages of Tracts.	Silent Conferer.
CENTRAL OFFICE AT PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON,	392,145	202,868	939,930	16,904	40,910	2,198,188	6,609,752	3,285
Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .	1,480	25,000	20,000	500		87,000	287,321	
NEW YORK, New York Committee U. S. C. C., .	29,870	32,458	148,276	7,633	11,609 2,700	182,664 13,650	2,150,000	
BUFFALO, . . . . .								
PHILADELPHIA, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .		1,506	1,483	1,824		38,677	373,820	
BALTIMORE, Committee of Maryland, . . . .	1,900	600	800	360	400	5,000	500,000	
PITTSBURG, Committee of Western Pennsylvania, CINCINNATI,	861	4,570	61,420	3,800	47,240	56,275	15,040	
Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C., .	15,000	30,000	65,000	1,500	5,500	200,000	750,000	
LOUISVILLE, Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C., .	10,000	500	800	1,000	1,000		130,000	
INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana Branch U. S. C. C., .	1,373	350	1,641		140	450	7,020	
PEORIA, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .	12,000	11,500						
CHICAGO, N. W. Branch U. S. C. C., .		60,000	17,500	1,500	4,700	70,000	300,000	
ST. LOUIS, St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C., .	1,086	2,517	2,741	4,692	6,293	79,615	853,769	
Total for 1863, Distributed in 1862, . . . .	465,715 102,560	371,859 130,697	1,254,591 115,757	39,713 3,450	120,492 34,653	2,931,469 384,781	11,976,722 10,953,706	3,285 830
Total for 1862 and 1863,	568,275	502,556	1,370,348	43,163	155,145	3,316,250	22,930,428	4,115

SUMMARY OF VALUE OF WORK FOR 1862 AND 1863.

1863.		
Cash receipts at Central and Branch		
Offices, . . . . .	\$358,239 29	
Value of stores donated, . . . .	385,829 07	
" " Delegates services, . . . .	72,420 00	
" " Scriptures from American Bible Society, . . . .	45,071 50	
" " Scriptures from British and Foreign Bible Society, . . . .	1,877 79	
" " Railroad facilities, . . . .	44,210 00	
" " Telegraph " . . . .	9,390 00	\$916,837 65
1862.		
Cash receipts at Central and Branch		
Offices, . . . . .	40,160 29	
Value of stores donated, . . . .	142,150 00	
" " Delegates services, . . . .	21,360 00	
" " Railroad facilities, . . . .	13,680 00	
" " Telegraph " . . . .	3,650 00	
" " Scriptures donated by the American Bible Society, . . . .	10,256 00	231,256 29
Total for 1863 and 1862, . . . .		\$1,148,093 94

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS

OF \$50 AND UPWARDS EACH, FROM PLACES NOT NAMED IN THE TABLE ON PAGE 272, BUT INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL ITEM OF RECEIPTS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PARTICULARS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE PAPERS.

### *MAINE.*

Bangor, . . .	\$1,388 01	Dover, . . .	\$66 00
Brunswick, . .	71 45		

### *MASSACHUSETTS.*

Fairhaven, . . .	\$97 66	Lawrence, . . .	\$55 00
Florence, . . .	50 00	Monson, . . .	100 00
Framingham, . .	115 00	Northampton, . .	367 50
Fitchburg, . . .	900 00	New Bedford, . . .	57 50

### *RHODE ISLAND.*

Bristol, . . .	\$100 00	Providence, . . .	\$6,854 09
Newport, . . .	486 00		

### *CONNECTICUT.*

Fairfield, . . .	\$68 00	Waterbury, . . .	\$64 26
New London, . .	148 50	Windsor, . . .	167 17
Thompsonville, .	150 00		

### *NEW YORK.*

Albany, . . .	\$156 89	Lansingburg, . . .	\$107 18
Albion, . . .	93 03	Middletown, . . .	52 00
Brooklyn, . . .	272 35	Norwich, . . .	76 03
Duanesburg, . .	173 28	Ogdensburg, . . .	120 00
Trumansburg, . .	95 93	Rochester, . . .	1,904 25
Fishkill Landing, .	100 00	Sing Sing, . . .	94 32
Homer, . . .	90 00	Schenectady, . . .	107 25
Kinderhook, . . .	52 43	Troy, . . .	1,535 00
Leroy, . . .	249 00	Wassaic, . . .	100 00

*NEW JERSEY.*

Allentown, . . .	\$57 00	Lawrenceville, . . .	\$110 64
Burlington, . . .	163 32	Lambertville, . . .	804 01
Bloomfield, . . .	77 10	Mount Holly, . . .	52 60
Belvidere, . . .	183 00	Montelan, . . .	212 00
Blawenburg, . . .	85 60	Newark, . . .	2,140 28
Beverly, . . .	65 72	Newton, . . .	227 50
Camden, . . .	88 70	New Brunswick, . . .	384 02
Clinton, . . .	77 47	Paterson, . . .	57 56
Cranberry, . . .	409 88	Paulesbury, . . .	200 00
Cape May, . . .	90 00	Princeton, . . .	351 20
Dewfield, . . .	101 00	Pennington, . . .	126 05
Elizabeth, . . .	72 15	Phillipsburg, . . .	181 84
Freehold, . . .	77 00	Penn's Grove, . . .	100 31
Flemington, . . .	63 00	Salem, . . .	153 79
Hightstown, . . .	140 27	Trenton, . . .	907 61
Jersey City, . . .	406 41	Titusville, . . .	294 00

*PENNSYLVANIA.*

Alexandria, . . .	\$125 00	Mechanicsburg, . . .	\$125 00
Abington, . . .	71 05	Muncy, . . .	181 60
Blairsville, . . .	200 00	Middletown, . . .	91 71
Bellville, . . .	123 00	Manayunk, . . .	222 80
Baileyville, . . .	69 25	Media, . . .	82 55
Bloomsburg, . . .	144 40	McConnellsburg, . . .	50 25
Bristol, . . .	55 10	Mercersburg, . . .	281 00
Bethlehem, . . .	70 00	Milton, . . .	77 45
Big Spring, . . .	54 27	Millerstown, . . .	156 10
Chartiers, . . .	431 45	Norristown, . . .	391 23
Cochranville, . . .	56 15	New Bedford, . . .	57 05
Cheltenham, . . .	168 00	Newville, . . .	52 50
Columbia, . . .	500 00	Northeast, . . .	69 00
Cressona, . . .	100 00	Oxford, . . .	140 50
Chambersburg, . . .	284 02	Pottsville, . . .	2,485 00
Curwensville, . . .	600 00	Paxton, . . .	110 00
Carlisle, . . .	107 15	Pottstown, . . .	206 50
Coatesville, . . .	217 65	Parksburg, . . .	186 00
Delaware Co., . . .	182 58	Pequa, . . .	115 75
Doylestown, . . .	55 00	Reading, . . .	440 75
Drumore Township, . . .	75 00	South Buffalo, . . .	141 15
Elkland, . . .	50 00	Shippensburg, . . .	132 00
Easton, . . .	234 35	Scranton, . . .	497 83
Erie, . . .	61 10	Towanda, . . .	80 00
Forks Brandywine, . . .	224 68	Uniontown, . . .	55 00

Frankford, . . .	80 00	Uwchland, . . .	50 75
Fayette, . . .	75 00	Waynesburg, . . .	64 70
Graysville, . . .	100 00	West Alexander, . . .	752 73
Germantown, . . .	910 10	West Chester, . . .	161 50
Gettysburg, . . .	829 44	Wilkesbarre, . . .	390 65
Greencastle, . . .	170 50	Wallace, . . .	81 65
Honesdale, . . .	60 00	Westmoreland Coal Co.,	200 00
Hanover, . . .	152 16	Williamstown, . . .	106 00
Holmesburg, . . .	410 30	Wyalusing, . . .	64 05
Huntingdon, . . .	206 00	Washington, . . .	2,306 72
Kensington, . . .	359 60	Williamsport, . . .	142 45
Kittaning, . . .	200 00	Wrightsville, . . .	87 75
Lancaster, . . .	141 70	Warren, . . .	50 00
Lewistown, . . .	79 15	York, . . .	491 69

**DELAWARE.**

. Christiana, . . .	\$55 26	Smyrna, . . .	\$50 00
Delaware City, . . .	76 25	Wilmington, . . .	1,318 03

**OHIO.**

Bloomington, . . .	\$100 00	Hillsborough, . . .	\$240 00
Chillicothe, . . .	210 80	Staubenville, . . .	187 66
Circleville, . . .	100 00	Warren, . . .	55 00
Cumberland, . . .	82 00	Wooster, . . .	50 00

**WISCONSIN.**

Madison, . . .	\$197 50
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**VIRGINIA.**

Wheeling, . . .	\$1,062 07
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**TENNESSEE.**

Memphis, . . .	\$130 00	Nashville, . . .	\$67 35
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# FORM OF CONSTITUTION FOR LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS,

WITH SUGGESTIONS ABOUT ORGANIZING THEM.

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THE United States Christian Commission invites the formation of Ladies' Christian Commissions. Each State, or great division of a State, should have a Commission, with its office or head at the principal commercial centre.

These District Commissions should influence the formation of Local Commissions in all places where it can be done, within the districts embraced by them; and thus all the ladies wishing to engage in the great work before us should be enlisted and organized.

The two objects to be aimed at by the ladies should be, *first, the collection of money*, to aid the U. S. Christian Commission to extend and perfect the great work in which it is engaged; and, *second, the gathering of stores and preparation of clothing*, to be forwarded for distribution by the delegates in the field.

When any Ladies' Commission is formed, it should be reported immediately, with the names of the officers and members in full, to the Central Office of the United States Christian Commission, for recognition and record.

If more convenient for any Ladies' Commission to co-operate with any one of the Branch Offices,—as Boston, New York, Brooklyn, Buffalo, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Peoria, Chicago, Detroit, or any other,—instead of the Central Office in Philadelphia, it can do so.

The following is a convenient form of Constitution, and may be so modified as to suit any district or locality.

## LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

OF ———,

AUXILIARY TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION FOR  
THE ARMY AND NAVY.

### PREAMBLE.

WHEREAS we, ladies, esteem it our duty and privilege to do all in our power to relieve and benefit the men who are enlisted to fight the battles of the Union, as they may need it in body or soul.

And whereas the United States Christian Commission has great and



economical facilities for this purpose, by means of its field agency and delegate system, and invites the co-operation of the ladies in its humane, patriotic and religious work.

Therefore, we ladies associate ourselves together for this purpose, under the name of The Ladies' Christian Commission of ———, and adopt for our government the following

#### CONSTITUTION.

**ARTICLE 1.**—This Commission shall be auxiliary to the United States Christian Commission for the Army and Navy.

**ARTICLE 2.**—Its object shall be to aid, in all suitable ways,—especially by raising money, and by gathering stores or making clothing to be forwarded,—in the work of benefiting the defenders of our nation temporally and spiritually.

**ARTICLE 3.**—Any lady, by vote of the Board of Managers, can become a member of this Commission upon the payment of \_\_\_\_\_, or an honorary member upon payment of \_\_\_\_\_, or a life member upon payment of \_\_\_\_\_, or any gentleman an associate member upon payment of \_\_\_\_\_ into the treasury of the Commission.

**ARTICLE 4.**—The general control of the affairs of the Commission shall be committed to \_\_\_\_\_ Managers, to be elected annually, on \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in each year, but to hold office until others are elected to fill their place. They shall elect an Executive Committee of \_\_\_\_\_ members, \_\_\_\_\_ of whom shall be a quorum for business; a President, Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall also be members and officers ex-officio of the Executive Committee, and this Committee and these officers shall perform the customary duties of their position.

**ARTICLE 5.**—All money received by this Commission over and above what is required for the purchase of materials and the payment of incidental expenses, shall be transmitted by the Treasurer quarterly, or as much more frequently as the Board may direct, to the Treasurer of the (United States Christian Commission).

**ARTICLE 6.**—The Board may make all necessary by-laws, to carry out its specified objects; and shall report to the (United States Christian Commission), at the close of each year, fully, in accordance with the regular form, and as often during the year as may be required.

Should this form be adopted for a Ladies' Christian Commission, embracing a State or section of country as its district, another article should be inserted after the 4th, requiring the Board, by its officers and others, to promote the formation of Ladies' Local Christian Commissions in all places within its limits where it would be wise to do it.

## LITTLE LIZZIE'S LETTER.

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PHILADELPHIA, April 17, 1863.

MY DEAR SOLDIER :

I send you a little Testament. I am a little girl seven years old. I want to do something for the soldiers who do so much for us ; so I have saved my pocket-money to send you this. Although I have never seen you, I intend to begin to pray that God will make and keep you good. Oh, how sorry I am that you have to leave your dear mother. Did she cry when you bade her good-bye ? Don't you often think of her at night, when you are going to bed ? Do you kneel down and say your prayers ? If I were you, I would not care if the other soldiers did laugh ; God will smile upon you. I am sorry, very sorry that you are sick. I wish that I could go to nurse you. I could bathe your head, and read to you. Do you know the hymn,

“ There is a happy land ? ”

I hope you will go to that land when you die. But remember, I will pray that you may get well again.

When you are able to sit up, I wish you to write to me, and tell me all your troubles.

Inclosed you will find a postage stamp. I live at No. — North Ninth Street.

Good-bye.

Your friend,

LIZZIE S——.

This letter was sent by a little girl seven years of age, with a Testament, to “some sick soldier” in the hospital at Nashville, and given by a delegate of the United States Christian Commission to the first soldier in the Convalescent Ward in Hospital No. 8 who rose to request prayer for his salvation, in the first meeting there after the precious Testament and letter arrived at Nashville. A few days after, he wrote to Lizzie the following reply :

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 24, 1863.

DEAR SISTER LIZZIE :

I received your kind letter from Mr. C. I. M. A beautiful present indeed, and I trust it will be one of the means of converting others, as well as the receiver. May God bless the giver. You have done a good work. Continue to pray, dear sister, and God will answer you. He says so in his word.

My dear mother is in the grave. It is nearly eleven years since she died; but she died happy, and I trust I shall meet her in heaven. I will try and pray for myself. Have been in the hospital four months, but am now nearly well; will be able to join my regiment to face the enemy; and if I should fall on the battle-field, I may have the blessed assurance of meeting my Saviour in peace.

Yes, "there is a happy land." May we meet in that happy land. I do not think that my fellow-soldiers will deter me from serving my Master. There are many others here that his Spirit is striving with.

I expect to go home to see my dear friends once more. Am very thankful that the privilege is granted, and I trust we shall have a happy meeting. Dear Lizzie, I must close. May God bless you, is my prayer. Write me again.

Address your friend,

S—— L—— N——,

Fourth Mich. Cavalry, Nashville, Tenn.

There is evidence that S—— L—— N—— was truly converted by means of Lizzie's letter, and is a most zealous and useful Christian soldier. It is suggested that children make for the soldiers the little article called "housewives," and with the pins, needles, thread, buttons, &c., put also in them a kind letter to a soldier, and send them with prayer, to George H. Stuart, Chairman United States Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

# Information and Instruction about Stores.

All good and suitable stores are welcomed, and all necessary freight and charges paid on them by the Commission, and are distributed by delegates of the Christian Commission personally.

## WHAT TO SEND.

MONEY, by all means, if possible. To invest money in articles to send is unwise.

The Commission can purchase exactly what is wanted, at the very moment when needed most, and as a Commission at wholesale cheaper than others.

## CLOTHING, ETC.

Cotton shirts, Cotton drawers, Canton flannel shirts and drawers, Surgical shirts and drawers (with tape strings to tie instead of seams at the sides), Large cotton drawers (to wear in-doors as pants), Dressing gowns, Slippers (if of cloth or carpet, with thick soles), Sheets, Pillow-cases, Bed-ticks (single, for filling with straw), Pillows, Pads, for fractured limbs, Ring pads, for wounds, Fans, Netting, to protect from flies, Housewives' stored with needles, thread, buttons, pins, &c., Handkerchiefs, Wash-rags, Old linen.

## FOOD, ETC.

Oat meal, Farina, Corn-starch, Dried rusk, Jellies, Soda biscuit, Batter crackers, Boston crackers, Pickles, Jams, Onions, in barrels, Apples in barrels, Cranberries, Good butter, in small jars, Dried fruits.

In special cases, eggs, bread, cakes, &c., are needed, but not generally. They should never be sent unless specially called for.

## FOR BEVERAGES.

Good black tea, Chocolate, Lemons, Syrups. All preparations of the blackberry are of double value.

## STIMULANTS.

Good brandy, Madeira wine, Port wine, Cordials. Domestic wines are excellent in winter, apt to spoil in summer.

GOOD READING MATTER.—Send no trash. Soldiers deserve the best. A library is a valuable hygienic appliance. For the able-bodied, good publications are mental and spiritual food. For convalescents, lively, interesting books, the monthlies, the pictorials, works of art, science, and literature, as well as those for moral and spiritual culture, such as you would put into the hands of a brother recovering.

STATIONERY IS MUCH NEEDED, paper, envelopes, and pencils.

## HOW TO PACK.

Pack in boxes. Barrels are not as good. Secure well. Boxes should not be so large that two cannot conveniently lift them into a wagon. Pack eatables by themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in sawdust or hay, in boxes never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c., in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

## HOW TO MARK.

Mark with paint or ink on the boards,—cards rub off,—in plain letters and figures. On one corner, the number of the box according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box #1, your second #2, your third #3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box as from your Society, giving the name, and conspicuously also mark as follows: "GEORGE H. STUART, Chairman Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia," or whatever other name and place you wish to send it to.

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each box or barrel by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box under the lid, and if with this last you place also an envelope addressed to yourself, with a postage stamp upon it, you may sometimes,—not always,—have it returned to you through the mail, with the signature of the delegate, and the name of the hospital camp where he distributed it.

Write plain. Above all, write your own name distinctly, and to save embarrassment, give your address in full, especially whether Miss or Mrs. or Rev.

Money should be sent to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., Treasurer, at Western Bank, Philadelphia.

## Communications and Contributions

[For the UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION may be sent to any of the following places, as may be most convenient, addressed to the persons designated.]

- PHILADELPHIA.—Letters to Rev. W. E. Boardman, 11 Bank Street; money to Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank; stores to George H. Stuart, 11 Bank Street.
- NEW YORK.—Letters and supplies to Nathan Bishop, 30 Bilde House; money to James M. Brown, 59 Wall Street.
- BROOKLYN.—Communications to Rev. J. B. Waterbury, D.D.; contributions to Samuel B. Caldwell.
- BOSTON.—Letters to Charles Demond, 4 Court Street; money to Joseph Storey, 112 Tremont Street; stores to L. P. Rowland, Tremont Temple.
- PITTSBURG.—Letters to Robert C. Totten; money to Joseph Albee, 71 Wood Street; stores to W. P. Weyman, 79 Smithfield Street.
- CINCINNATI.—Letters to Rev. J. F. Marlay; money to W. T. Perkins, 17 West Third Street; supplies to A. E. Chamberlain, Rooms Christian Commission, 51 Vine Street.
- INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Letters to C. N. Todd; money to James M. Ray; supplies to G. W. Clippinger.
- CHICAGO.—Letters to B. F. Jacobs, P. O. Box 5801; money to John V. Farwell; supplies to Rooms Young Men's Christian Association, Methodist Church Block.
- ST. LOUIS.—Letters to J. H. Parsons *Daily Union* office; money to Edward Ticknor; supplies to Isaac S. Smyth, Christian Commission office, under Lindell Hotel.
- DETROIT.—Communications to Charles F. Clarke; money to Caleb Ives, and supplies to E. C. Walker.
- BALTIMORE.—Letters to Rev. J. McJilton; money to Rev. George P. Hays; stores to G. S. Griffith, 77 West Baltimore Street.
- BUFFALO, N. Y.—Communications, money, and supplies to John D. Hill, M.D.
- TROY, N. Y.—Letters, money, and supplies to Charles P. Hartt.
- HARRISBURG, PA.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. T. H. Robinson.
- ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Communications, money, and supplies to Oliver D. Grosvenor.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street, or Rev. S. L. Bowler, 500 H Street.
- LOUISVILLE, KY.—Communications, money, and supplies to J. Edward Hardy, care of J. G. Dodge & Co., 325 Main Street.
- PEORIA, ILL.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Reynolds.
- FREDERICK, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Gideon Bantz.
- HAGERSTOWN, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. Mr. Evans.





UNITED STATES

**C**hristian **C**ommission

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1865.

## **A WORD FROM THE FRONT.**

By a Field Agent to those who send comforts to the Soldiers through the United States Christian Commission.

**WE TRY TO DO THREE THINGS WITH YOUR GIFTS:**

1. See that the Soldiers receive what is sent to them.
2. To let them know who sent it.
3. To assure the Donor that the Gift has not miscarried.

## **WHAT IS NECESSARY ?**

1st. Upon every article you make sew an envelope, addressed to yourself, taking the occasion to tell the Soldier what you think of him.

2d. UNDER THE LID of every box you pack, put a list of the articles, and an envelope addressed to the Society sending the same. If you send Pickles, Boiled Cider, Apple-Butter, or Grated Horse-Radish, put the letters and your envelopes in sealed bottles, inside the cask. Some of these envelopes will never appear again, but most of them will come back to your Post Office.

PRINTED BY JAS. B. RODGERS,  
52 and 54 N. Sixth Street.

STEREOTYPED BY WESTCOTT & THOMSON,  
121 S. Third Street.

UNITED STATES

*301*

# Christian Commission,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

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FOR THE YEAR 1864.

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THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

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PHILADELPHIA, APRIL, 1865.



# United States Christian Commission.

## OFFICERS.

GEO. H. STUART, *Chairman.*

JOSEPH PATTERSON, *Treasurer.*

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN, *Secretary.*

REV. LEMUEL MOSS, *Secretary Home Organization.*

REV. BERNICE D. AMES, *Secretary Field Organization.*

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

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Rev. James Kells, D.D., Brooklyn.  
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Samuel B. Caldwell "  
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John P. Crozer, Philadelphia.  
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Charles Demond, Boston.  
John P. Crozer, Philadelphia.  
Jay Cooke, "  
Joseph Patterson "  
Rev. Bishop M. Simpson, D.D., Philadelphia.

Stephen Colwell, Philadelphia.  
Hon. Wm. E. Dodge, New York.  
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W. S. Griffith, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
G. S. Griffith, Baltimore, Md.  
Horatio G. Jones, Philadelphia.  
Rev. W. E. Boardman, Ex-Officio.

Since the close of the year the following changes have been made:—Wm. Frew, of Pittsburgh, A. E. Chamberlain, of Cincinnati, Hon. John V. Farwell, of Chicago, and Major General Clinton B. Fisk, of Missouri, members of the Commission, have been appointed members also of the Executive Committee. Rev. Bernice D. Ames has resigned the Secretaryship of Field Organization and engaged in the organization of Ladies' Christian Commissions; and Rev. Edward P. Smith has been appointed Field Secretary; Rev. R. J. Parvin has been appointed Chairman of a National Executive Committee of Ladies' Christian Commissions, and Rev. W. E. Boardman has withdrawn from work in the office to extend the organization of Ladies' Christian Commissions.

# AUXILIARIES OF THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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## MAINE.

### BANGOR.

#### BANGOR BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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Rev. A. K. P. Small.

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J. B. Mathews.

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O. Barton, *Treasurer*.

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A. H. Dunlop,

Benjamin Saunders,

J. D. Otterson.

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J. F. Prindell.

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*Hanover*: Prof. E. T. Quimby.

*Derby*: Rev. E. G. Parsons.

*Rochester*: Rev. C. Holman.

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### MONTPELIER.

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H. D. Hopkins,

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George G. Hunt,George F. Houghton,  
Sheldon S. Burnam.

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R. G. Cole,

Rev. George B. Safford.

## MIDDLEBURY.

Prof. Parker,

President Labaree.

## RUTLAND.

James Barrett,

John H. Bowman,

William A. Burnet.

**MASSACHUSETTS.**

## BOSTON.

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W. H. Whipple,

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Cornelius Davenport,

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N. Lincoln,

H. A. Edwards,

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T. G. Attwood,

Gen. W. C. Plunkett, South Adams.

Hon. P. L. Page,

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Daniel R. Williams, Stockbridge.

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## VOLUNTARY AGENTS.

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## RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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Hon. W. W. Hoppin,

Rev. Richard B. Duane,

John Kingsbury, LL.D.,

Prof. John L. Lincoln, Hon. Jabez C. Knight,

## CONNECTICUT.

## CONNECTICUT BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## HEAD-QUARTERS—HARTFORD.

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Prof. D. C. Gilman, "

H. Kingsbury, "

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H. P. Haven, New London.

Calvin Day, Hartford.

D. Gallup, Plainfield.

Thomas Smith, "

J. D. Candee, Bridgeport.

Charles Benedict, Waterbury.

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Col. B. S. Pardee,

H. N. Whittelsey, *Treasurer*.

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R. P. Cowles, *Corresponding Secretary*.*Vice Presidents.*H. P. Hoadley, *Recording Secretary*.*Executive Committee.*

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F. W. Pardee,

George H. Fowler,

Jonathan Dann,

William Franklin,

R. D. Coan,

S. Noble Foster,

G. J. Hine,

F. V. D. Garretson,

J. L. Treat,

E. H. Plant,

Edward Bromley,

Augustus T. Post,

John G. Chapman,

C. B. Whittelsey,

Rev. C. Goodrich,

Richard S. Lyon,

C. L. Ives, M.D.

## NEW YORK.

## NEW YORK COMMITTEE OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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David Hoadley,

Jonathan Sturgis,

Frederick G. Foster,

Hon. Jas. W. Beekman,

John T. Johnston,

T. C. Doremus,

Morris K. Jesup,

L. B. Woodruff,

Oliver Bronson, M.D.

Archibald Russell,

Stephen Cutter,

D. Willis James,

Henry K. Bull,

Rev. David Terry,

Smith Sheldon,

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Rev. Jos. Holdich, D.D.,

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Rev. Robert Lowry,	Theodore Hinsdale,	Dwight Johnson,
S. M. Beard,	Thomas H. Messenger,	Elijah Lewis,
Charles R. Marvin,	Lewis Morris,	R. R. Graves,
Hon. Moses F. Odell,	J. B. Hutchinson,	Coe Adams,
Robert S. Bussing,	Rev. Edward Taylor,	Reuben W. Ropes,
John French,	A. D. Mathews,	John G. Fay,
B. L. Wyckoff,	W. W. Armfield,	A. A. Lewis,
Ludlow Thomas,	J. M. Pray,	Daniel Tracy,
S. B. Chittenden,	David Wesson,	A. B. Baylis,
James P. Wallace,	Hugh Allen,	J. W. Greene,
James Myers,		Thomas Messenger.

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John F. Bathbone, *Vice-President*.

Levi Dederick, *Secretary*.  
William McElroy, *Treasurer*.

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## UTICA.

## CENTRAL NEW YORK BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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*Vice-Presidents:*

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# REPORT.

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## GENERAL STATISTICS.

The trust committed to the United States Christian Commission has been large. It cannot be gathered in its fullest extent and presented in tables. Much has been done by local committees who make no report of their local work. Soldiers have been benefited in various ways, in many places where they rendezvous for enrolment, encamp for instruction, stop in passing to and from the field, or serve on guard; chapels have been built and furnished; stores and publications received and distributed; Thanksgiving and other repasts for the sick and wounded provided and served; and many other things done, which, if added, would materially increase the amount we have to report of receipts, distributions and work, and diminish somewhat the per centage of expense, as it has all been done without pay.

From the principal centres of supply there have been reported as received in all, up to January 1st, 1865—according to the following tables, four millions thirty thousand four hundred and forty-one dollars, and eighty cents,—viz:

In 1862.....	\$231,256	29
“ 1863.....	916,837	65
“ 1864.....	2,882,347	86
	<hr/>	
	\$4,030,441	80

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES FOR 1864.

Cash receipts of central and branch offices for 1864.....	\$1,297,755	28
Hospital Stores donated central and branch offices for 1864,	1,169,508	37
Publications donated central and branch offices for 1864...	33,084	38
	<hr/>	
Carried over.....	\$2,500,348	03

Brought over.....	\$2,500,348 03
Bibles and Testaments donated by the American Bible Society.....	72,114 83
Value of volunteer delegates' services.....	169,920 00
Value of railroad, steamboat, and other transportation facilities.....	106,765 00
Value of telegraph facilities, from Maine to California.....	26,450 00
Value of rents of warehouses and offices donated to the Commission.....	6,750 00
<b>Total values for 1864.....</b>	<b>\$2,882,347 86</b>

### GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1864.

Boxes of Hospital stores and publications distributed during the year.....	47,103
Value of stores distributed.....	\$1,714,261 85
Value of publications distributed ..	\$446,574 26
Value of stationery distributed.....	\$24,834 71
Value of 205 chapels and chapel tents erected during last winter and the present, in the various armies.....	\$114,359 78
Copies of Bibles and Testaments and portions of Scriptures distributed during the year.....	569,594
Copies of Hymn and Psalm Books distributed during the year.....	489,247
Copies of Knapsack Books distributed during the year....	4,326,676
Copies of bound library books distributed during the year	33,872
Copies of magazines and pamphlets distributed during the year.....	346,536
Copies of religious, weekly and monthly newspapers distributed during the year.....	7,990,758
Pages of tracts.....	13,681,342
Copies of "Silent Comforters," ect.....	3,691
Delegates commissioned during the year.....	2,217
Aggregate number of days of delegate service.....	78,869
Average number of delegates constantly in the field during the year.....	217
Number of delegates, in the field, January 1, 1865.....	276
Balance of cash on hand at the central office, Jan. 1, 1865	\$5,420 12
Balance on hand at all the offices.....	\$116,315 71

In presenting these general statistics, it gives us great pleasure to express our heartfelt gratitude:

1. First of all for the Divine favor and signal providence traceable in every step of our progress from first to last.

2. For the favor of the government, from which we have received extraordinary facilities and many cheering words of commendation.

3. For uniform courtesy and kindness from officers of the army and navy, military and medical, and the hearty co-operation of chaplains.

4. For very many facilities afforded by Railway, Steamboat, Express and Telegraph Companies, in passing delegates, transporting supplies and transmitting messages.

5. For the generous confidence and support of the people, the large contributions by individuals and Corporations from \$10,000 down; the untiring co-operation of our noble women, in Ladies' Christian Commissions, Aid societies, and other Associations; the gifts of the children; the substantial remembrances from missionaries in heathen lands; and all that has come from every quarter to sustain and supply the work in the army and navy.

6. For the continued large grants of the sacred Scriptures from the American Bible Society.

7. And finally, for the voluntary unpaid services of more than two thousand ministers and laymen who have gone as delegates and ministered to the sick and wounded, and labored amongst the strong in the spirit of our Divine Lord and Master.

For all this we can only say that we are profoundly thankful, and that all has been accepted as a sacred trust, which we have sought to apply to the greatest possible benefit of those, and those only, for whom it was committed to us.

## GENERAL HISTORY.

### I.—ENLARGEMENT OF THE COMMISSION.

In the course of the year, the General Commission has been increased from twelve members to forty-eight, and the Executive Committee from five to fourteen; two Secretaryships have been added,—one for Home Organization, the other for Field Organization.

In this connection, several things are worthy to be specially noted:—

1. The fact that an enlargement of the Commission was necessary, to have it in keeping with the increase of trust and of work.

2. That there has been no change of purpose or principles.

3. That the increase of trust and work which made an increase of the Commission necessary, is attributable, under Divine favor, mainly to a steady adherence to the original object and plan—that of giving personal relief and benefit to the soldiers and sailors, in soul and body, by the direct ministrations and distributions of Christians, sent for the purpose, as voluntary unpaid laborers to camps, battle-fields, hospitals, posts and vessels.

4. That the Christian Commission was the first national agency in the field for giving direct personal special relief to the soldiers and sailors, and first in the employment of unpaid voluntary Christian service.

5. In recording the later and greater numbers and works of the delegates, the earlier ought never to be overlooked or forgotten. The pioneers are worthy of first honors. The necessity for this work for the bodies and souls of our citizen soldiers and sailors, was seen and felt, and in some measure met by army committees of Young Men's Christian Associations in the first stages of the war. It commenced in the camps of rendezvous before the first soldiers started for the field, and was pursued at their stopping-places by the way, and in railway cars as they went, and onward through the very first bloody scenes of the war. Delegates went from New York to minister to the wounded of the first battle of Bull Run. General Lyon's command in Missouri was followed in the Rolla campaign by delegates from Chicago; and when, on their return march, the poisoned, the sick, and the wounded, were left scattered by the way, they found them,—and when every thing else was exhausted, these delegates gave them the cup of cold water—not easily to be had pure and unpoisoned—in the name of Christ, the best of all gifts to men with fevered lips, burning frames, and swollen wounds. General Grant was also followed in his earliest campaigns by delegates, with their stores, publications, and personal ministrations. With his own hand General Grant wrote the pass and order for transportation for Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., and his companions, who, with Messrs. B. F. Jacobs and D. L. Moody—names inscribed often since on the records of the Commission—ministered to the wounded at Fort Donelson. The Peninsular Campaign under General McClellan called out a large number of our eastern clergymen and laymen as delegates.

The call for the Convention by which the U. S. Christian Commission was organized grew out of this work; and the Commission was formed for the purpose of systematizing, and developing it.

These early beginnings of the work of the Christian Commission bear all the characteristics of the later, even as the rills which feed and form the river, are, in every element, the same as the river itself. This has not always been understood. Some have supposed that physical relief, and the sending of stores, was an after-thought, and not embraced in the original plan of the Commission; and therefore we record it, that the plan of sending Christian men supplied for their work, as a voluntary relief corps, was one of the main ideas in the formation of the Christian Commission, which was the first national agency to adopt it.

## II.—MEANS AND MEASURES AT HOME.

Four things have worked together to increase the resources of the Commission during the year:—

1. The testimony of the soldiers from the field.
2. The testimony of returned delegates, and their voluntary work at home.
3. The emergencies of the field.
4. The pressure at home.

The influence of the soldiers' testimony, in inducing contributions, cannot easily be over-estimated. They themselves are not at all aware of its extent. Much of it is incidental and undesigned, and all of it spontaneous and unsought. The whole-souled, soldiery commendations of the sick and wounded in hospital to visitors, when occasion serves; the stories of benefits, witnessed or received, told by the re-enlisted veterans, home on furlough last winter; the letters of the living and well, paper and envelopes for five millions having been furnished to the soldiers by the Commission during the year; and the letters for the disabled and dying—a thousand such were written in six days by delegates of the Commission after the battle of Nashville,—all have gone to swell the volume of the soldiers' testimony for the Christian Commission.

The testimony of returned delegates, with their voluntary service at home, after having served in the field for no other pay than the



soldiers' blessing, has done much to aid also in enlarging the means of the Commission.

The emergencies of the year need only to be remembered, and the power of their resistless appeals in swelling the gifts of the people will be appreciated.

Not so, however, perhaps, the pressure at home, which at one time was heavy and threatening, but was turned by the good hand of God into a means of largely increasing the tide of beneficence to the Christian Commission. This must be more fully stated.

The work of last winter drew heavily. A hundred and more Chapel Stations, Out-Stations, and Brigade Chapels, with more than two hundred men as distributors, as well as preachers, made daily demands upon the resources of the Commission. Spring came with its calls for battle-field stores, teams, wagons, and other appliances for the great movements and battles. The treasury of the Commission was empty. There was not a dollar in it more than enough to meet outstanding obligations. The great Fairs were in progress. All interest seemed to be centred in them. The public appeared to be pressed into forgetfulness of the Christian Commission and its wants.

Good men saw this and were moved. It was God's hand for good. By this state of things the question was pressed upon thousands who had never before manifested interest in the matter, as to what the Christian Commission should do, with an empty treasury, a great work in progress, and an emergency unparalleled upon it. What could be done? Must the field be abandoned? Must the delegate work cease, the name of Christ be dishonored, the soldiers left to perish in their blood, and pass away with none to point them to Jesus?

The broad question, thus providentially pressed, soon eventuated in remarkable things. In Philadelphia, Christian gentlemen not connected with the Commission—some of them prominent in other agencies for the soldiers—appealed, through the papers, to the public, to come forward to the support of the Christian Commission. The ladies manifested equal interest. In other places subscriptions were volunteered. Large contributions were made by Banking, Railway and other corporations, and by individuals; and invitations came from far and near, even from the Pacific Coast, for those who could tell the story of the army work, to come and receive the willing contributions of the people. Besides these and other generous

manifestations, two plans of national breadth were proposed, entirely distinct, by persons separated by the Alleghenies, and by equal extremes of church communion, but with hearts beating in unison for the cause of Christ and the soldier. One plan was that of a national subscription, with the aim of raising half a million of dollars. The other was that of Ladies' Christian Commissions with the object of enlisting all evangelical congregations in an organized system of contributions and work. The first promised instant and ample aid in the great emergency; the second proposed a steady income for future expanded operations.

### **The National Subscription.**

The suggestion came from a Western merchant, accompanied by the offer of \$5,000 in aid of it, and was gladly adopted. Other like sums were offered. A public meeting was called. The church of the Epiphany, in Philadelphia, where it was held, was densely filled. Bishop McIlvaine, of Ohio, presided. Gentlemen of New York, Boston, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia, addressed the meeting. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed. Fifty thousand dollars were given and pledged, and the amount was afterwards largely increased.

In Pittsburg, a similar meeting was held, which resulted in about thirty thousand dollars. In Boston, the generous enthusiasm was, if possible, greater; and in many other places, meetings were held, and the people vied with each other in liberality. The results cannot be accurately stated. Other contributions were inseparably mingled with these subscriptions. The Christian Commission was borne through this unwonted pressure, and a new impulse was received for permanent progress.

### **Ladies' Christian Commissions.**

The idea of organizing in each evangelical congregation an auxiliary Commission, and engaging, if possible, every man, woman, and child as contributing members, was suggested by an Eastern clergyman in charge of a large city parish. Adopting this idea, another no less important was added to it—that of identifying the Christian women of the nation with the Commission, more fully.

By organizing each congregation, with a central committee of ladies in each city, or other large community, many more contributing members would be secured than by any other plan, and a large income from membership fees alone would be secured. By identifying the Christian women of the nation with the Christian Commission in name, justice only would be done to them, and by securing their systematic co-operation, the Commission would receive additional aid of great value. Additional contributions over and above membership fees might be solicited by them, and work for the soldiers done, clothing prepared, delicacies gathered, and many other things more effectually secured than would be otherwise possible.

These ideas were embodied under the title of "LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS." Distinctly re-stated, the main features are:

1. Organization in each evangelical congregation.
2. An annual membership, embracing all ages and both sexes.
3. An annual fee of one dollar for each member.
4. The solicitation of contributions in money and stores, and the preparation of clothing and delicacies for distribution in the field.

The introduction of this plan to the public followed immediately that of the National Subscription. A meeting was held for the purpose in Concert Hall, Philadelphia, the next morning after that at the Church of the Epiphany. Bishop Simpson presided. Bishop McIlvaine, Rev. Dr. Kirk, and others addressed the ladies. The plan was adopted, a committee of one hundred ladies appointed to carry out the plan in Philadelphia, and to memorialize the Christian women of the nation, urging its general adoption. This meeting was followed by others. The memorial was published in the religious papers, and a small pamphlet was issued containing the outlines of the plan. In every city and church where this plan has been fairly and fully presented, it has found favor, and by its results its wisdom has been justified. As yet, however, scarcely more than a good beginning has been made. Its general extension would secure very great benefits. The Commission, therefore, would respectfully, but earnestly urge the friends of the cause to press the matter in all suitable ways until Christian women everywhere have been thoroughly enlisted and organized, and the great mass of worshippers shall have membership in the Commission. *A million of members would bring a million of dollars annually in membership fees alone, and doubtless also as much more in contribu-*

*tions*, and there are more than a million, unquestionably, who would willingly become members, if the opportunity should be offered them.

### The Mission to the Pacific Coast.

Invitations had often been given the Christian Commission to send representatives to the Pacific coast. The mission had long been determined upon. Delay had been occasioned by the difficulty of securing the delegates desired. Early in the year, however, Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., and Rev. George J. Mingins were induced to go. At the same time it happened, in the good providence of God for us, that Mrs. Col. S. M. Bowman, formerly residing in San Francisco, was going there on business, and kindly consented to do what she could, while there, for the Commission.

To human view, the time was very unpropitious. Drought affecting disastrously both agricultural and mining interests, a fall in mining stocks producing unusual commercial pressure, the large sums already given through another channel, and the pre-occupation of the public mind, all combined to render it doubtful whether the representatives of the Christian Commission would be heard.

God's hand opened the way, however; they were heard, and the people responded most nobly. After a meeting of prominent gentlemen, and a private hearing and conference, a public meeting was called in Platt's Hall, followed by a second and a third—three in ten days. Ten thousand dollars in gold was contributed, and thus the Commission was fairly introduced.

A Branch was formed, entitled "The Pacific Christian Commission," J. B. Roberts, Esq., Chairman; and also the "Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific," of which Mrs. Col. Bowman was President while she remained on the coast, succeeded by Mrs. Dr. Mary E. Keeney, whose husband is Medical Director in the Department of the Pacific.

Thus begun, the work went on. The representatives of the Commission were every where welcomed with the heartiness for which the people of the Pacific coast are famed, and with a liberality quite unexpected under the circumstances.

The ladies of San Francisco held a Fair, from which every thing objectionable was excluded, and raised in it over fifty thousand

dollars, currency. Stockton, Napa, Sacramento, Petaluma, each, by festival or fair, added to the increasing contributions of the coast. Money was given at the polls in some places. In Oregon and Nevada, auxiliaries were formed, and liberal contributions made. At the close of the year, the aggregate of all given on the coast, transmitted to the Central Office in Philadelphia, amounted to \$117,447 57. As this passes through the press, we hear of \$5,500 from the Sandwich Islands.

Two measures for increased and permanent income have been adopted, which promise well for the future: subscriptions, payable monthly, for sums varying from fifty cents to one hundred dollars; and Ladies' Christian Commissions organized in every community, and in the larger places, in every congregation. In many places these two measures have been combined.

The Delegates have returned, and, in their place, Rev. C. P. Lyford and Rev. H. D. Lathrop have been sent, welcomed, and are now happily pursuing the work so well begun by their predecessors.

#### Other Branches

have been formed during the year, in Albany, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Toledo, Buffalo, Hartford, New Haven, Milwaukee, Utica, and Troy, together with many important auxiliaries in other sections of the country.

#### A Thanksgiving-Day Appeal

was issued, and responded to extensively and liberally by the churches in all parts of the country.

We have enumerated these various means and measures at home, not as the adequate causes of increase of our resources during the year; for they have not been so. These lie back of all means and measures, in the favor of God and the people, and are our reliance for the future.

### III.—FIELD ORGANIZATION.

To place the field in its Divisions, workers, appliances, labor and distributions, under the eye at once, we give the following concise statement:

#### Divisions of the Army Field.

- GENERAL.**
1. Armies near Richmond.
  2. Army in the Shenandoah Valley.
  3. Army of the Cumberland, &c., &c., including General Sherman's Army.

4. Armies along the Southern Mississippi.
5. Armies in Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas.
6. The Navy, Southern coast and Gulf, supplied from New York.

**SPECIAL.** Stations, and Corps organizations.

A station in each great army centre, when the army is at rest; and a moving organization in each corps when the army moves.

Out stations to meet wants of various sections.

Permanent stations in all great permanent centres.

### Men and Women for the Field.

1. **AGENTS.**—Permanent—paid.

One field agent for each general division, five in all, with assistants in the larger fields.

One station agent or corps captain for each station or corps organization, with teamsters.

2. **DELEGATES** for six weeks, or longer, unpaid; from two to ten at each station, as needed; and at City Point, forty to fifty. Three hundred the full corps. Over thirty-seven hundred have served since the beginning of the war.

3. **MANAGERS OF DIET KITCHENS.**—About seventy ladies employed.

4. A **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION** in each of three Districts, Eastern, Western, and Southern, paid by the American Bible Society, subsisted by the Christian Commission.

### Appliances.

1. Barrack Chapels, store and subsistence rooms at permanent camps.

2. Chapel, store and subsistence tents, at all movable stations.

3. Churches, houses, &c., detailed by government, at most permanent stations.

4. Wagons and teams, four-horse, for each moving organization; two-horse for such stations as require them.

5. Special diet kitchens in field-hospitals, managed under direction of the Surgeons, by Christian Commission lady managers.

### Labors.

1. Hospital.—Preaching; prayer-meetings; personal intercourse with soldiers; and distribution of tracts, papers, and comforts of various kinds.

2. Field.—The same—at all stations, and along the lines; at isolated posts, batteries, etc.

3. Battle-field work.

4. Individual relief, aid and information, at special request.

5. Forwarding home money for soldiers in service, and effects of deceased soldiers.

6. Managing Special Diet Kitchens, under the medical authorities.

### What is Distributed.

Battle-field, hospital, and special diet kitchen stores; such as shirts, drawers, socks, handkerchiefs, towels, bandages, lint, farina, corn-starch, crackers, cordials, dried fruits, canned fruits, fresh apples, grapes, peaches, etc., onions, pota-

toes, ice, syrups, jellies, pickles, etc., Jamaica ginger, condensed milk, etc., Bibles for hospitals and Bible classes; Testaments to all soldiers; Scriptures in German, French, and other foreign languages; gunboat libraries, hospital libraries, soldiers' books, weekly and monthly religious papers: over six hundred and fifty thousand a month; tracts, "Silent Comforter," etc.

### **A Special Diet Kitchen Service**

has been organized during the year, and is quite successful.

Early in the year, a plan was submitted by Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, State Agent for Iowa, accepted and commended both by the Western Medical authorities of the army, and the Western Field Agency and Branches of the Commission. Its main features were the following, viz.:

1. That special diet kitchens be separated from the general kitchens of the hospitals, and for the low diet patients only.
2. To be Government kitchens, controlled and supplied by the medical authorities of the hospitals.
3. Furniture and supplies necessary, but not provided by Government, to be supplied by the Commission.
4. Christian ladies to manage them; to be selected and sustained by the Commission.

After due consideration the plan was adopted for the West, and Western Branches and Agents were authorized to carry it out, in conjunction with Mrs. Wittenmyer, who was charged with the general superintendence of the service, and also with the selection of managers for the kitchens.

Ladies of prudence, culture, and self-denial, were selected; the authorities gave approval and commendation in strong terms; the poor, suffering soldiers were delighted, and the good done in the West was so great and so manifest, that it seemed highly desirable to extend the system to the Eastern hospitals. This is now in progress. A beginning has been made in the field before Richmond, and at Washington City.

The details of this plan and its progress will be found in the interesting statement given among the reports following, by Mrs. Wittenmyer, also in letters and orders from the President, Secretary of War, Surgeon-General, Assistant Surgeon-General, and others.

### Superintendence of Scripture Distribution.

A joint agency between the American Bible Society and the United States Christian Commission was determined upon, after much deliberation and mutual conference.

The proposition made to the Commission by Rev. Dr. Taylor, one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the Bible Society, embraced the following points:—

1. A division of the army, for the desired purpose, into three fields: Eastern, Western, and Southern.

2. The appointment of an agent for each field, selected by mutual consultation, and commissioned by both the Society and the Commission.

3. The work of Scripture distribution to be done, as heretofore, by delegates, chaplains, and other good men, but superintended and reported by these agents, in consultation with the field agents in each District.

The proposition was accepted and adopted. Resolutions were passed, expressing appreciation of the facts presented by Dr. Taylor; gratitude for the large grants made and the generous confidence shown the Commission by the American Bible Society; thankfulness to God for His providence in filling the treasury of the Society, and to the people for their generous gifts to it.

Rev. Wm. H. Gilbert was appointed and commissioned for the Eastern District, and sent at once to the field. Rev. W. F. Baird has since been commissioned for the Western District, and a suitable man, it is confidently expected, will soon be sent to New Orleans for the Southern District.

It is a remarkable fact, that the most urgent cry from the army has always been for the Word of God. Popular books of deep interest and real worth have been sent, but none have found favor like the Sacred Scriptures. The supply has never kept pace with the demand. From the first, the distribution would have justified distinct superintendency. Recording and reporting the work, with its incidents, demanded it. All the Commission has been able, until now, to do, has been to give it place in common with book, newspaper, and tract distribution. Now, happily, the demand will be more adequately supplied, plans more perfectly laid and carried out, and the work more distinctly recorded and reported.



### Individual Relief.

Special arrangements have been made during the year to meet the requests of friends at home in reference to soldiers in the field:—

1. For relief or attention to particular soldiers.
2. For information concerning particular soldiers.

In most cases, the Commission can quickly reach and relieve particular suffering soldiers with such supplies of clothing or delicacies, and such Christian care as a brother or father would give, if on the spot with the means to do it.

Many thousands of suffering ones in the field have been attended to at the request of their friends, and many anxious hearts at home have been relieved by intelligence from absent ones, obtained in response to special inquiry about them.

Arrangements have also been made for the reception and transmission of money from soldiers to their friends, by express. And a large amount has been safely sent home for the soldiers during the year.

## IV.—FIELD WORK.

### The Delegates.

In specifying and explaining the systematic arrangements of the field, there is danger that the work done, and the delegates who do most of it, with no other pay than the blessing of those benefited and saved, and the smiles of God and of conscience, will lose that prominence in our estimation, which is justly their due. They, in truth, form the great feature of our army work.

The whole number of delegates sent during the year, has been two thousand two hundred and seventeen.

The average number at all times in the field has been two hundred and seventeen.

The cost of their outfit and maintenance, while in service, has been at the rate of three hundred and nineteen dollars for each year's labor.

This is a very small cost for the services of such men. Many of them are ministers, lawyers, physicians, merchants, and others of the first rank in their respective lines of life, and all of them are men accepted for their character and ability for usefulness.

The value of their services cannot, however, be computed by any home standard. Their various works, extraordinary facilities and incentives, and the condition and character of the men amongst whom they labor, must all be taken into the account.

Their relief work is of inestimable price. They are present in emergencies, and are sent and supplied on purpose to meet them. Special cases, requiring physical relief, are constantly occurring, and they are there to seek them out and relieve them. This is one of the kinds of work the delegates do.

Another is that of the distribution of the Scriptures and reading-matter generally, and of stores to those in want, and unable to draw from Government.

Another is that of writing letters for the disabled and dying, or concerning the dead, to friends at home; transmitting messages, mementoes, moneys and valuables; giving last words, telling where buried, and how the grave is marked; and conveying information which never could have been received but for them.

Many thousands of letters have been written by them during the year; and, by this means, as well as others, they have formed a living link between the army and the home.

Their direct work of winning souls to Christ by preaching, prayer-meetings, personal conversations, facilitated and enforced by their other labors, is the great work needed and sought by the soldiers, in view of what is before them, and in remembrance of privileges left behind when they left home for the war; and is, too, the crowning work sought and done by the delegates.

Their influence for good to the soldiers cannot be understood by those who have not themselves witnessed it. Coming fresh from home, in citizens' dress, full of home sympathies, with physical energy unworn, zeal strengthened by knowledge that their stay must be short, and that the soldiers' peril is great; having every facility for their work—chapels to preach in, stores and publications to distribute, quarters at the best possible centres, wagons and teams and battle-field supplies to go with when the army moves and fights, and, withal, having the men for whom they labor impressed in advance with the fact, that what they do is not done for pay, nor as professional duty, but for the love they bear to them and to Christ, their influence could not but have unwonted power, and their labor a value above price.

Their influence in keeping up the tone of the army is of no mean

value. Nor is this all; for when they return, fresh from army work and revival scenes, invested with the novelty and power of what they have seen and done, then their influence at home has been increased, the sacred fire has kindled in other hearts, and spread until homes and churches have been made glad with the joy of salvation, and many tens of thousands of dollars have been given, for the relief and benefit of the soldiers, to the Commission.

### Chapels in the Army.

The year opened with the first experiment, on a large scale, of chapel-work in the army. Chapel tents were set up at all Christian Commission stations. Special measures were taken to enlist able men, pastors and others, as preachers and workers in these chapels.

Chapel-roofs of canvas were furnished by the Commission to chaplains, one for each brigade willing to build log walls for a chapel. Stoves were supplied to warm them, Scriptures for distribution, Hymn-books for worship, and delegates to aid chaplains in the services.

Churches were opened as chapels in places taken by our forces.

A hundred chapels, in all, were open for daily, and some for thrice daily services, and every one, so far as known, was visited by power from on High in numerous conversions. These scenes continued down to the hour when the men moved out for battle. Thousands went, fresh from revivals, to fight and fall triumphant in hope, and thousands to fight and live, and testify to the power of religion to carry them through the most awful scenes of strife and danger.

This first great experiment was followed by a second, still larger, when winter came again. The chapels were increased, both in number and size. Over one hundred and forty have been provided, each having double the capacity of the previous ones, and some still more. They are filled every evening, and several times on Sabbaths. Tens of thousands of soldiers gather in them daily. They are the comfortable and happy places for the soldiers. Each one is a radiant centre of light and salvation. It is impossible to fix the number who will date a new life begun in them.

The effect of these religious homes in the army, with the daily prayers ascending, is, of course, great and happy. Nothing like it

has ever been known before, and it is the result solely of God's good providence.

### Marches and Battles.

With all the armies the Christian Commission has had delegates to accompany them on their marches, and work among the wounded on their battle-fields. With some more, and others less, according to circumstances.

The position of the armies operating against Richmond, favored the presence of a strong delegation. A four-horse wagon and team, with stores, and from six to ten delegates, accompanied each Army Corps through the Wilderness, and onward to the position occupied on the Appomattox and James rivers. These delegates were present to aid surgeons in relieving the suffering, and to point the dying to Jesus, in the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Chickahominy, Cold Harbor, and the frequent conflicts before Petersburg and Richmond.

At Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, at one time, three hundred and fifty delegates were busy among the wounded from the Wilderness and Spottsylvania night and day. And at City Point, at times, a hundred or more have been stationed.

In the Army of the James, at the Railroad and Petersburg defences, before the Army of the Potomac arrived, a full delegation worked with great efficiency.

The battles in the Valley of the Shenandoah, the wounded of our own victorious army and of the enemy, from the battles of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek, were ministered to by a well-organized band of delegates.

The combined armies in Tennessee and Georgia were in a less favorable position. The long, single line of railway limited all supplies, even of provisions, forage, and ammunition, and of course cramped the facilities of voluntary agencies. Still at Dalton, Resaca, Rocky-faced Ridge, Dallas, Kenesaw, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, and onward to Savannah, representatives of the Commission were present, to bear honorable part in the good Samaritan work of that wonderful campaign.

At Franklin and Nashville, a work of unsurpassed interest was done. The Red River expedition was not without a representation from the Commission. The fields of Price's defeats in Missouri,

Little Blue, Fort Scott, and Mine Run, were fields of the Commission's work; and there is one field of minor importance which yet has some remarkable facts connected with it, worthy of special mention.

### **The Monocacy.**

The battle was bloody, though the forces engaged were not large. The ways to the field from Washington and Baltimore were closed by the presence of the enemy. Mean while, Mr. Bantz, of the Christian Commission in Frederick City, and Miss L., of Philadelphia, were there to do what they could.

More effectually to relieve the wounded, the Secretary of War telegraphed to the Vice President of the Pennsylvania Central Railway, to request the Commission to send delegates and stores via Harrisburg and Gettysburg. A special car was politely offered for the service. That day ten or twelve delegates came on from the East and the West. Stores were purchased and packed; and that night fourteen delegates in their special car, with ample stores, steamed to Harrisburg and Gettysburg, and the next day were conveyed by wagons to Frederick City, and to their work among the wounded, accompanied by Mr. McCreary, and others of the Commission from Gettysburg and Harrisburg.

### **The Steam Fire-Engine.**

The long continued, hot, dry weather, and the incessant grinding of wheels and tramp of hoofs at City Point, the great Army Base at midsummer, made the roads, the hospital, and the country for miles away, a bed of dust, and filled the air with clouds of it, the entire day. For the patients in the great General Field Hospital, covering forty acres, and all connected with them, this was well nigh insufferable. Water, to lay the dust and supply the hospital, was the great want.

One of the delegates, by almost incredible perseverance, dug a well, through the quick sand, but one well was nothing for such a place. The Government placed two small engines by the river-side to force water up the bluff, but the supply was still meager. The great want still remained. Rev. A. B. Cross, of Baltimore, secured a powerful Steam Fire Engine, with Engineers to work it; obtained transportation, and by great exertion and care, placed it

safely, with adequate quantity of hose, amidst the hospital grounds. The success was complete. The want was supplied, the dust laid, and water raised in abundance for all purposes. The Surgeon took it in charge and made it part of the Government appliances for the general good.

### **The Cooking Wagons.**

Jacob Dunton, Esq., of Philadelphia, invented, built, and presented to the Christian Commission a novel establishment, called a Cooking Wagon. It had four wheels; and unlimbered, the hind wheels separating from the front wheels, like a cannon from the caisson. Three boilers over furnaces and wood box surmounted the hind wheels, and three smoke stacks arose above all. A large chest for provisions and utensils surmounted the fore-wheels, with a driver's seat above in front.

This wagon was sent to City Point and the front, and did good work, first in the flying hospitals, and afterwards on battle-fields. A whole division under fire was served with hot coffee from it at one time; the first they had tasted for two weary days or more.

### **Schools for Colored Soldiers.**

The large number of Colored Troops in the Army of the James, and their eagerness to learn, induced the General in command to propose furnishing lumber for the school houses, and detailing soldiers to build them, upon condition that the Commission should send teachers and books for them. Accepting at once the General's proposition, arrangements were made to secure the teachers and books required.

Much has been done, also, in the way of schools for colored soldiers, in other armies.

The school houses serve the double purpose of schools and chapels, and added benefits thus accrue to the men.

### **The Gifts We Have Received.**

We have received many strange and curious, affecting and beautiful, great and little gifts. If we were able to tell, in each case, we might find that every gift is freighted with history; but, though we cannot write their stories—all of them, yet they are surely written in the records on high.

During the conflicts of the Wilderness, we received five thousand dollars from the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company; for this we desire to make special acknowledgment, as that corporation has granted us every possible facility besides,—carrying our stores and delegates free, and, after the Monocacy battle, placing a special car at our service. During the same crisis, many other corporations made large subscriptions: “The Board of Brokers” of Philadelphia, one thousand dollars; “The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company,” two thousand dollars, etc. Davis, Pearson & Co., Lewis, Audenried & Co., and a number of other coal firms in Pennsylvania, gave heavy subscriptions in coal, which they sold for the benefit of the Commission.

The citizens of Nevada sent a silver brick, which excited endless curiosity. The American consul at Tripoli, Syria, a native convert, by name Antonius Yanni, sent through Rev. Henry Harris Jessup, missionary of the American Board, an exceedingly interesting box of Syrian curiosities; cedar canes and wood, sweetmeats, shells, etc. Some of these were sold at Worcester, Mass., during the meeting of the Board, and realized \$180 00,—which was expended in “Bonar’s God’s Way of Peace,” appropriately labelled. A box of tea, from Mr. and Mrs. Peet, of Fuh Chau, China; numerous donations from missionaries in India, from Lodiana, Futteghurh, Bangkok, in Siam, and other places; large subscriptions from friends and American residents in the British Isles; subscriptions from Paris, France; Bogota, South America, and many other places, testify to the most decided appreciation of our work on the part of those abroad. A mother in Israel, in Philadelphia, whose sons and grandsons had fallen like the autumn leaves, on honorable fields, in high positions, sent two magnificent shawls which were disposed of for a large sum of money; another, born in 1776, made a beautiful quilt, to be sold for the cause.

These are but samples. Each day seems to have brought to us something to teach us how our people love the soldiers and sailors of our country. Surely we should be encouraged to go forward.

DR.	SION.	CR.
1864.		
January 1.	To Balances, Exhibit B No. 4.....	245,677 14
December 31.	" Cash, Exhibit B No. 6.....	241,614 80
"	" Wagons and other stock,	60,598 20
"	" and Oufit, Exhibit B	23,406 35
"	" and navy, Exhibit B.	4,820 73
"	" Labor, &c., Exhibit B No.	18,494 76
"	" Sent Delegates, Exhibit	2,953 29
"	" ing Agents, Exhibit B	3,733 00
"	" Meetings, Exhibit B No.	2,036 63
"	" Office, Exhibit B No. 1.	7,663 44
"	" Postage, and Incidental	
"	" B No. 13.....	7,767 67
"	" Past Agency, Exhibit B	3,245 56
"	" Fund, paid to order of	
"	" Exhibit B No. 1.....	1,979 24
"	" Agency, Exhibit B No. 10.	2,827 03
"	" for various armies of	
"	" base, Exhibit B No. 10.	23,869 06
"	" Exhibit B No. 10.....	381 65
"	" Agency, Exhibit B No.	580 88
"	" Exhibit B No. 10.....	638 05
"	" Agency, Exhibit B No. 10	1,805 82
"	" field, Exhibit B No. 10.	970 00
"	" Agency distributed per	
"	" various numbers, Ex-	155,024 90
"	" Agency, distributed per	
"	" various numbers, Ex-	10,292 65
"	" Agency distributed per	
"	" various numbers, Ex-	1,279,25
"	" Agency distributed per	
"	" various numbers, Ex-	7,502 21
"	" and this day, Exhibit B	5,420 12
1865		
January 2.	To Balances, Exhibit B No. 4.....	834,582 43

Having exams submitted therewith, and the corresponding Bank Account having a balance in the Treasury on the 31st of December, 1864.

STEPHEN COLWELL.  
HORATIO GATES JONES.





## EXHIBIT A.

CASH RECEIPTS, TRANSFERS, AND BALANCES OF CENTRAL OFFICE, AND BRANCHES HAVING  
A LOCAL FIELD TO SUPPORT, FOR 1864.

## UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

TITLES AND LOCATION.		1. Balance on hand per last Annual Report Dec. 31, 1863.	2. Cash received directly into the various Treasuries.	3. Cash remitted by Cent'l Office to Branches & Agencies.	4. Cash remitted from one Office Branch Office to others.	5. Total Cash Re- ceipts including Balance from 1863.
CENTRAL OFFICE,	Philadelphia,	\$48,547 41	\$498,578 67		297,456 85	\$834,582 48
CLEVELAND ARMY COMMITTEE,	Cleveland,		8,235 82			8,235 82
CENTRAL NEW YORK BRANCH,	Utica,		3,959 45			3,959 45
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE,	Washington,			155,024 90		155,024 90
CONNECTICUT BRANCH,	Hartford,		23,418 56			23,418 56
ALBANY BRANCH,	Albany,		10,560 50			10,560 50
NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH,	Chicago,	872 78	48,938 98		2,764 46	62,076 21
MARYLAND BRANCH,	Baltimore,	1,382 13	49,572 90	7,502 21		58,457 24
ARMY COMMITTEE, WESTERN PENN'A,	Pittsburgh,	7,667 38	92,705 00			100,272 38
BRANCH FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY,	Buffalo,	2,401 51	47,389 22			49,790 73
ARMY COMMITTEE, Y. M. C. A.,	Boston,	4,522 27	164,952 13			169,474 40
MINNESOTA BRANCH,	St. Paul,		4,011 01			4,011 01
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE,	Providence,		11,862 41			11,862 41
ST. LOUIS BRANCH,	St. Louis,	1,029 93	39,904 08	1,279 25	8,600 00	50,813 26
ROCHESTER COMMITTEE,	Rochester,		7,659 07			7,659 07
MICHIGAN BRANCH,	Detroit,	678 28	26,042 40			26,720 68
PEORIA BRANCH,	Peoria,	772 80	49,378 12			50,145 92
INDIANA BRANCH,	Indianapolis,	621 51	18,183 79			18,755 80
HARRISBURG COMMITTEE,	Harrisburg,		8,332 60			8,332 60
TROY BRANCH,	Troy,		7,725 51			7,725 51
CINCINNATI BRANCH,	Cincinnati,	12,941 66	53,499 71		4,051 81	70,493 18
KENTUCKY BRANCH,	Louisville,	200 05	8,701 75		7,198 74	21,888 19
NEW YORK COMMITTEE,	New York,	16,166 68	102,747 68	10,292 65		118,914 81
BROOKLYN AND L. I. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,	Brooklyn,		26,450 97			26,450 97
Totals.		\$92,204 34	\$1,297,755 28	\$174,099 01	\$320,066 35	\$1,884,124 98

# UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## EXHIBIT C.

### NUMBER AND VALUE OF STORES AND PUBLICATIONS DONATED, AND NUMBER OF PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED IN 1864.

TITLES AND LOCATIONS.		Number of Boxes and Packages of Donated Stores and Publications.	Value of Donated Stores.	Value of Donat'd Pub- lications.	Number of Boxes and Packages Distribu'd.
CENTRAL OFFICE, . . .	Philadelphia,	3,829	\$378,462 13		18,744
CENTRAL N. Y. BRANCH, .	Utica,	18	2,630 00		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COM- MITTEE, . . . . .	Washington,	108	3,780 00		2,769
CONNECTICUT BRANCH, . .	Hartford,	81	12,165 13		
ALBANY BRANCH, . . .	Albany,	67	2,000 00	\$300 00	12
NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH, .	Chicago,	438	16,715 00	1,085 00	698
MARYLAND BRANCH, . .	Baltimore,	325	5,200 00	325 00	2,994
ARMY COMMITTEE, WESTERN PENNA., . . . . .	Pittsburgh,	2,403	193,940 00	15,000 00	3,809
BRANCH FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY, .	Buffalo,	1,416	16,280 78		867
ARMY COMMITTEE, Y. M. C. A,	Boston,	2,105	248,100 00	7,780 00	566
MINNESOTA BRANCH, . . .	St. Paul's,	25	2,500 00	250 00	32
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE,	Providence,	15	1,350 00		
ST. LOUIS BRANCH, . . .	St. Louis,	3,407	26,695 00	2,500 00	4,126
ROCHESTER COMMITTEE, . .	Rochester,	160	5,000 00		20
MICHIGAN BRANCH, . . .	Detroit,	484	15,000 00	100 00	469
PEORIA BRANCH, . . . .	Peoria,	822	16,672 00		889
INDIANA BRANCH, . . .	Indianapolis,	395	11,474 93		912
CINCINNATI BRANCH, . .	Cincinnati,	4,000	175,000 00	1,000 00	5,251
KENTUCKY BRANCH, . . .	Louisville,	1,805	12,000 00	11,170 00	1,805
NEW YORK COMMITTEE, .	New York,	417	24,543 40	12,426 42	3,120
Totals,		22,320	\$1,169,508 37	\$51,936 42	47,103

# EXHIBIT

## Cash Disbursements, Transfers and Balances of Central Office

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	Special Pay- ments at	Cash remit- ted to, or	Cash paid for Stores pur-	Cash paid for Stores Dis-	Cash paid for Publications	Cash paid for Publications	
Cincinnati Branch,.....	Cincinnati....						
Kentucky Branch,.....	Louisville.....						
New York Committee,.....	New York....						
Brooklyn and L. I., Christian Com- mission,.....	Brooklyn.....						
Totals,.....	\$12,888 24						

\* It has been estimated, on the best data s

hibit H has this fact incorporated in its summar-

† On account of the remoteness and extent

salary.

‡ It has been estimated, on the best data s

delay. Exhibit H has this fact incorporated in

§ A large amount of these balances was re

NOTE.—In examining the tables it must be remembered that the Christian Commission not only takes the cash, stores and publications entrusted to it, and carries them directly to the men for whom they were given, but does a

## UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## EXHIBIT D.

TOTAL OF PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED IN 1864, SHOWING GRANTS OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY,  
AND THE QUANTITIES PURCHASED AT EACH OFFICE.

TITLES AND LOCATION.		1. Bible, Testa- ments, and Portions of Scripture, Grants of Am. Bible Society, and its Depositories.	2. Hymn and Psalm Books.	3. Knapsack Books, Fiez- ble and Pa- per Covers.	4. Bound Li- brary Books.	5. Mag- azines and Pan- phlets.	6. Religious Newspapers.	7. Pages of Tracts.
CENTRAL OFFICE,	Philadelphia,	339,595	254,018	3,940,209	26,690	237,443	4,431,664	6,609,257
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE,	Washington,	87,232	1,000	500	1,650	300	307,459	10,000
ALBANY BRANCH,	Albany,		200	150	300	500		
NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH,	Chicago,	1,900	37,000	22,000	4,195	1,440	237,653	29,400
MARYLAND BRANCH,	Baltimore,				380	578	59,000	600,000
ARMY COMMITTEE, WESTERN PENN'A.,	Pittsburgh,	4,215	8,976	42,400	4,140	22,370	614,940	7,420
BRANCH FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY,	Buffalo,					42,900		
ARMY COMMITTEE, Y. M. C. A.,	Boston,	1,328	37,500	23,000	1,840	1,125	46,000	223,100
MINNESOTA BRANCH,	St. Paul,		256	273	176	176	2,500	
ST. LOUIS BRANCH,	St. Louis,	846	6,063	46,285	14,227	13,695	268,424	306,494
MICHIGAN BRANCH,	Detroit,	900	500	250		500	1,000	60,000
PEORIA BRANCH,	Peoria,		12,950	5,357	1,956	1,079	9,100	205,830
INDIANA BRANCH,	Indianapolis,			3,410				
TROY BRANCH,	Troy,				570			
CINCINNATI BRANCH,	Cincinnati,		86,250	10,000	25,260	10,869	1,150,674	1,571,921
KENTUCKY BRANCH,	Louisville,	34,478						
NEW YORK COMMITTEE,	New York,	37,826	41,584	182,672	11,336	17,896	587,124	8,581,500
BROOKLYN AND L. I. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,	Brooklyn,	1,174	3,950	49,570	2,376	49,565	174,320	575,420
REBEL SOLDIERS OF ARMY OF MISSISSIPPI, THROUGH MEMPHIS AND SHELLEY CO. BIBLE SOCIETY, TENN.,		60,000						
TOTALS,		569,594	489,247	4,326,676	93,872	346,536	7,990,758	13,681,343

# EXHIBIT E.

## DELEGATES COMMISSIONED IN 1864, THEIR WORK, AND PERMANENT LABORERS

TITLES AND LOCATIONS.		1. Delegates Commissioned.*	2. Number in Field, Janu- ary 1, 1865.	3. Aggregate number of days of Dele- gates' service	4. Number of paid Agents employed in Home Work.
CENTRAL OFFICE,	Philadelphia,	687	43	20,494	8
CLEVELAND ARMY COMMITTEE,	Cleveland,	62	1	2,154	.....
CENTRAL NEW YORK BRANCH,	Utica,	6	6	.....	2
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE,	Washington,	59	2	1,200	.....
CONNECTICUT BRANCH,	Hartford,	10	8	278	.....
ALBANY BRANCH,	Albany,	84	.....	728	.....
NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH,	Chicago	101	12	4,148	2
MARYLAND BRANCH,	Baltimore,	64	8	1,674	1
ARMY COMMITTEE, WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA,	Pittsburgh,	176	20	6,843	.....
BRANCH FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY,	Buffalo,	75	15	2,491	1
ARMY COMMITTEE, YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,	Boston,	859	87	18,642	8
MINNESOTA BRANCH,	St. Paul,	9	1	246	.....
RHODE ISLAND COMMITTEE,	Providence,	.....	.....	.....	.....
ST. LOUIS BRANCH,	St. Louis,	63	6	1,908	2
ROCHESTER COMMITTEE,	Rochester,	9	.....	885	.....
MICHIGAN BRANCH,	Detroit,	55	5	1,528	.....
PEORIA BRANCH,	Peoria,	41	12	1,142	.....
INDIANA BRANCH,	Indianapolis,	48	8	1,586	2
HARRISBURG COMMITTEE,	Harrisburg,	11	1	250	.....
TROY BRANCH,	Troy,	5	1	252	.....
CINCINNATI BRANCH,	Cincinnati,	140	45	5,880	1
KENTUCKY BRANCH,	Louisville,	1	.....	.....	.....
NEW YORK COMMITTEE,	New York,	98	41	9,394	.....
BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,	Brooklyn,	110	14	8,685	1
TOTALS,	.....	2,217	276	78,869	28

\* Average number of Delegates in Field during the year—217.

**Number of points, from Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 1864.**

DESTINATIONS.	Silent Comforter.	Reams of Paper.	Envelopes.
Washington, D.	272	803	1,508
Baltimore, Md.	233	310	328
Annapolis, Md.	430	24	67
Pittsburgh, Pa.	250	60	
Cincinnati, Oh.	618	1,070	
Louisville, Ky.	759		45
St. Louis, Mo.	724	720	235
Nashville, Tenn.	955	60	111
New York, N.		35	
Cairo, Ill.,.....	565	55	
Springfield, Ill.	525		
Knoxville, Tenn.	906	1	
Martinsburg, W.	098		3
Yorktown, Va.	166		
Johnson's Island	200	15	
Parkesburg, W.		30	
Newark, N. J.,	500		
Fort Delaware,	734	10	
Chicago, Ill., . .	027	201	
Chester, Pa., . .	484	3	
York, Pa., . . . .	659		
Wheeling, W. Va.	780	8	
Wilmington, D.		12	
Carlisle, Pa., . .	440		
Boston, Mass.,			
Harrisburg, Pa.	928		
Camp William	964	3	
Chambersburg,	410		
Portland, Me.,	610		
Elmira, N. Y.,	088		
New Albany,	250		
Harper's Ferry	630	16	
Alexandria, V.	635	6	
Philadelphia	1990	31	
Indianapolis,	1510	10	
Pottsville, Pa.,	000		
Gettysburg, Pa.	300		
San Francisco,	400	30	
Fortress Monroe	415	80	
Rock Island,	1928		
Miscellaneous,	874	105	
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>2,761</b>
			<b>1,022,202</b>





**UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.**

**EXHIBIT G.**

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 1862  
1863, AND 1864.**

<b>PARTICULARS.</b>	<b>1. 1864.</b>	<b>2. 1863.</b>	<b>3. 1862.</b>	<b>4. Totals for 1862, 1863 and 1864.</b>
Delegates Commissioned,.....	2,217	1,207	856	8,780
Aggregate Number of Days of Delegates' Service,.....	78,869	41,118	11,598	181,580
Boxes of Stores and Publica- tions Distributed,.....	47,108	12,648	8,691	68,442
Bibles, Testaments and Portions of Scripture Distributed,...	569,594	465,715	102,560	1,187,869
Hymn and Psalm Books,.....	489,247	371,859	180,697	991,808
Knapsack Books, in Paper and Flexible Covers,.....	4,826,676	1,254,591	115,757	5,697,024
Bound Library Books,.....	98,872	89,718	8,450	187,085
Magazines and Pamphlets,.....	846,536	120,492	84,658	501,681
Religious Weekly and Monthly Newspapers, .....	7,990,758	2,981,469	884,781	11,807,008
Pages of Tracts,.....	18,681,842	11,976,722	10,958,706	86,611,770
"Silent Comforter" &c., .....	3,691	3,285	880	7,806

# UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## EXHIBIT H.

### GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES, FOR 1862, 1863, AND 1864.

PARTICULARS.	1. 1864.	2 1863.	3. 1862.	4. TOTAL FOR 1862, 1863 & 1864.
Cash Receipts at Central and Branch Offices, .	\$1,297,755 28	\$858,239 29	\$40,160 29	\$1,696,154 86
Value of Stores donated to Central and Branch Offices, . . . .	1,169,508 87	885,829 07	142,150 00	1,697,487 44
*Value of Publications donated to Central and Branch Offices, . .	81,296 82			81,296 82
Value of Scriptures from American Bible Society.	72,114 83	45,071 50	10,256 00	127,442 83
Value of Scriptures from British & Foreign Bible Society, . . . .		1,677 79		1,677 79
Value of 29,801 Hymn Books, donated by Army Committee, Y'ng Men's Christian Asso- ciation, Boston, .	1,788 06			1,788 06
Value of Delegates' Ser- vice, . . . .	169,920 00	72,420 00	21,860 00	263,700 00
Value of Railroad, Steam- boat, and other Trans- portation facilities. .	106,765 00	44,210 00	18 680 00	164,655 00
Value of Telegraph faci- lities from Maine to California, . . .	26,450 00	9,890 00	3,650 00	39,490 00
Value of Rents of Ware- houses and Offices, do- nated to the Commission	6,750 00			6,750 00
Totals,	\$2,882,847 86	\$916,887 65	\$231,256 29	\$4,080,441 80
* Exhibit C, No. 2, shows this for 1864 to be.....				\$51,996 42
From which should be deducted value of Grants of American Bible Society, included in Credits to various Branches,.....				20,640 10
Showing the above to be for 1864,.....				\$31,296 32

# REPORTS

OF

## SPECIAL AGENCIES, ETC.

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### **Report of the Delegation to Visit our Prisoners in Richmond and other places in the South.**

Several months ago, the U. S. Christian Commission had its attention called to the sufferings and trials endured by our prisoners in the South, and plans were proposed to relieve them. Correspondence was had with our Government, and permission was finally obtained to send a delegation to the South. The Executive Committee nominated the following gentlemen as such Delegation, viz.:—The Rt. Rev. Charles P. McIlvaine, D.D., of Ohio; the Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, D.D., of Delaware; the Rt. Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., of New York; Rev. William Adams, D.D., of New York City; Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia; Norman White, Esq., of New York; and Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., of Philadelphia.

When the fixed time arrived for the departure of the Delegation, only three were able to leave on this important errand of mercy to the brave patriots, who were suffering the horrors of Southern dungeons. Most of the others held themselves in readiness to go immediately, upon hearing the probabilities of success in accomplishing the objects of the mission.

Those who went, were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Edmund S. Janes, D.D., of New York; the Rt. Rev. Alfred Lee, D.D., of Wilmington, Del.; and Horatio Gates Jones, Esq., of Philadelphia.

These members of the Delegation started on their mission of mercy to our brave men on Wednesday, January 18th, and reported at General Grant's head-quarters at City Point, where they were most courteously received by the Lieutenant-General, who gave them letters to Col. Mulford, our Agent of Exchange, and to Col.

Ould, Commissioner on behalf of the enemy, stating the object of the Delegation, and offering to the South the privilege of sending a like number of gentlemen to visit the Northern prisons. He also placed a steamboat at the disposal of the Delegation, to enable them to proceed to Varina, where Col. Mulford was with the flag of truce boat "New York." The Delegation remained with Lieutenant-General Grant for more than two hours, and, next morning, reached Varina, and communicated with Col. Mulford, to whom they delivered the letters referred to. They also addressed the following to General Lee, viz.:

Flag of Truce Boat,  
James River, January 20, 1865. }

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE,

*Commanding Army of Northern Virginia:*

GENERAL:—The undersigned have been appointed by the U. S. Christian Commission to visit the Federal prisoners of war now confined in the military prisons at Richmond, and other places in the South.

It has been one of the primary objects of the Christian Commission to minister to the spiritual and bodily wants of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors. Your own suffering soldiers on the battle-field, in hospitals and in prisons, have often been the recipients of sympathy and aid from the Delegates of our Commission.

We respectfully ask from you a safe conduct to and from your military prisons, to enable us to accomplish the object of our appointment.

The undersigned are civilians, and the Christian Commission is a voluntary association.

Should our request be granted, we are ready to give such assurances as may properly be demanded of us.

Awaiting your reply, we remain, General, your obedient servants,

E. S. JAMES,  
ALFRED LEE,  
HORATIO GATES JONES.

This, together with the letter from General Grant, was taken by Colonel Mulford, and forwarded to Richmond that same day.

On Saturday afternoon the Delegation received a reply, through Col. Mulford, that the Confederate authorities declined to give them the permission asked for.

## DIET KITCHEN SERVICE.

By Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, General Superintendent.

GEO. H. STUART,

*Chairman U. S. Christian Commission.*

In compliance with a resolution passed at the recent convention of the Commission Branches at Indianapolis, requesting a written statement regarding Diet Kitchens, I have the honor to submit the following:

During the last three years of war, tens of thousands of our fellow citizens have become inmates of military hospitals. The great loyal heart of the North has pulsed in sympathy with these sufferers, and all that love or patriotism could offer has been lavishly bestowed. The provisions of the Government for the comfort of our sick and wounded have been liberal and ample, and yet, owing to the circumstances of men, the constant changes occurring among hospital managers and attendants, the absence of much that is essential in the preparation of delicate food, and the inexperience of those who are mainly intrusted with the important duty of preparing special diet for the sick and wounded, thousands of our brave men have died of debility, who, if nourished with suitable food, at the proper time, might now have been in the front ranks of our army.

This subject has awakened deep concern on the part of medical officers and others, and leading medical men freely express the opinion that in a majority of cases the diet of a patient is of more importance than his medicine—that good food properly prepared is a valuable auxiliary in the restoration of the sick. And yet, notwithstanding the importance attached to this department of hospital service, the *prescription* and preparation of special diet has received, comparatively, but little attention.

The need of a plan by which Government supplies, and the generous contributions of the people, would more systematically and uniformly reach the sick, prepared, and presented in the best possible and most attractive manner, has long been a subject of thought among the friends of the soldiers, and many of the medical officers charged with the responsible duty of providing for the sick. Medical Inspectors, almost unanimously, agree that the cooking department is the most defective of all the branches of the hospital service.

Each hospital has a General Kitchen, where meats, soups, beans, and other vegetables, and tea and coffee are prepared. But in many of these kitchens, for want of a knowledge of cookery, the food is prepared in such a manner as to render it, not only unpalatable but unhealthy. For instance, the fresh, juicy meat intended to be eaten, is put into a large caldron of cold water, and brought by slow heat to the boiling process, which is continued till the meat is tender. The result is that nearly all the nutriment is extracted from the meat, leaving the dry fibres to be eaten, while the soup is too rich and oily to be either palatable or healthy for sick men. So with tea and coffee when thrown into large vessels of cold water to "soak the strength out,"—a very common practice. When brought to the boiling point, the aroma has all escaped, and the tannin, or the vegetable acids extracted, makes the decoction unpalatable to delicate patients.

The manner of cooking beans and other vegetables has been considered equally objectionable by many, who assert that "raw beans kill more soldiers than the enemy's bullets." In many of the hospitals the whole matter of diet is left to ward-masters and nurses, who are frequently inexperienced and incompetent persons.

Medical men, from the first, have seen this evil and tried to remedy it, but they have labored under many embarrassments. The men detailed to take charge of the hospital kitchens have mostly been unskilled soldiers, whose knowledge of cookery was limited to a few imperfectly prepared camp messes. The surgeons themselves lacked the *practical knowledge* and the *time* necessary to properly direct the efforts of these inexperienced workers. The result has been, that hundreds of our brave men have starved to death in the midst of plenty, because their food was not selected and prepared with the discrimination and delicacy their condition required. Medical men, with a view to avoid such results, have resorted to various measures for improving hospital cooking. Among others, female nurses have been required to prepare the diet for the very sick in their respective wards. This plan has generally failed, from the fact that female nurses have too much to do in their wards, too limited a supply of stores, and too few facilities, in most hospitals, to secure for every patient the variety of food required, by suitable preparation. With a multiplicity of duties and limited arrangements their efforts were necessarily circumscribed, and the whole tendency was to favoritism among patients.

It was found necessary to divide the patients into two classes, and make arrangements for cooking the food of very sick men in a separate kitchen; but such arrangements were made subordinate to the general kitchen, and only a limited variety of food prepared, such as beef tea, gruel, corn starch, and farina, and such other articles as were called on special orders.

In some of the cities, Aid Societies have established and maintained independent kitchens in the vicinity of a hospital, for the purpose of supplying special delicacies to the very sick. It is due the medical department to say that during the last two years, hospital cooking has been greatly improved, and in many of the hospitals the diet has been carefully prescribed and prepared.

Greater uniformity and a more complete and systematic plan were however required to make the cooking department subserve fully the interests of the sick and wounded. It was to meet this demand, and to secure a more faithful application of hospital stores, that the Christian Commission proposed to the Medical Department the present plan of co-operation.

This plan is simply to supplement present Government arrangements, when necessary, with cooking utensils and supplies, so as to secure all the conveniences required to facilitate every variety of cookery, and promptly afford all the stores necessary to keep up the variety and quality of food issued, to the *highest standard*; thus bringing to the bed-side of every languishing patient in home-like preparation such delicate food as the surgeons may prescribe or allow. These kitchens are Government kitchens; form a part of the regular hospital arrangements; are as directly under the control of the surgeon in charge as any other department of the hospital; and are supplied mainly from the hospital commissary.

They are superintended however by cultivated Christian women, employed by the Christian Commission for that purpose, who are directed in their labors by the hospital authorities, and are required to conform to hospital usages. These ladies are intrusted not only with the supplies furnished by the Christian Commission, but in most cases with the delicate food obtained from the Government; so that all the stores, from every source, are used with economy, and faithfully applied in the best possible manner for the benefit of the sick.

The preparation of food and the management of kitchen affairs are made their business and study; and all that can be done, in co-



operation with surgeons, to meet the demands of a feeble or capricious appetite, is done by them. Regular diet lists, or bills of fare, are prepared and furnished to each ward surgeon, who, when he makes his daily round among the sick, is expected to prescribe their diet with as much care as he does their medicine.

All the patients in the hospital, who are not in a condition to go to the general table, or eat the food prepared in the general kitchens, have their meals ordered by the ward surgeons from the special diet kitchen. These diet lists, or orders, are returned to the diet kitchen, where the food is prepared in such variety and quantity as are embraced in the orders. The ladies charged with the responsible duty of superintending the preparation of diet and the general management of the diet kitchens, are given every facility by the surgeons, and are provided with all the help they need. Soldiers unable for active field duty are mostly detailed for this purpose.

The ladies (there are usually two connected with each kitchen) personally supervise the preparation and seasoning of every article of food, and are careful to see it go out to the wards, suitably prepared, and in sufficient quantity. Twenty-four diet kitchens on this plan, are now in successful operation. They are kept perfectly clean and neat, are well furnished and supplied with stores, and every thing connected with the work is conducted in a systematic and orderly manner.

To give some idea of the variety and amount of food prepared in these kitchens, the following statement is given, taken from the monthly reports for October, of six diet kitchens in the West—viz., Hospital No. 4, New Albany; Hospital No. 2, Chattanooga; Hospital No. 1, Nashville; Jackson Hospital, Memphis; Foundry Hospital, Louisville; Cumberland Hospital, Nashville; showing the aggregate amount of rations:—Tea, 26,942; coffee, 7,961; cocoa, 1,495; boiled milk, 2,221; thickened milk, 752; cold milk, 4,700; chicken soup, 4,136; beef soup, 11,218; oyster soup, 6,685; beef essence, 848; beef steak, 6,196; ham, 1,109; sausage, 32; hash, 671; mackerel, 2,206; fish, 352; chickens, 1,226; baked potatoes, 12,999; fried potatoes, 6,321; sweet potatoes, 4,204; tomatoes, 9,616; onions, 1,191; cabbage, 652; radishes, 324; pickles, 12,952; dry toast, 10,672; milk toast, 6,264; eggs, 5,334; omelettes, 867; bread, 17,621; corn bread, 4,353; light biscuit, 28,100; mush, 2,463; fried mush, 836; pudding, 12,701; rice, 5,877; tapioca,

913; custard, 490; blanc mange, 114; float, 80; pies, 232; apple dumplings, 10; butter, 10,724; cheese, 1,080; crackers, 2,635; sponge cake, 98; ginger cake, 322; baked apples, 7,151; canned fruit, 3,394; stewed fruit, 3,915; arrow-root, 358; corn starch, 1,056; jellies, 2,849; gruel, 2,407; barley, 1,073; gelatine, 126. It will be seen by the large variety of food furnished in the above-named kitchens, which are of medium size, and in different sections, that the appetites of the patients are consulted. Nothing, however, is issued without the approbation of the surgeon immediately in charge of the sick. Some of the articles furnished on the above list may seem unfit for sick men; but when we take into consideration that there are many wounded men, who are allowed by the surgeons to eat any thing they may choose, and others who are homesick, or hopelessly ill, or dying, who in their loneliness and suffering remember and crave these things, because a kind mother's hand once prepared such dainties for them, it is no longer a matter of wonder. And since the loved ones at home cannot cheer them with their presence and love in their dark hours of suffering, it is a delightful task to substitute home food and home comforts.

In addition to their duties in the kitchen, the ladies visit the patients in the wards, write letters for them, and perform such other offices of kindness and trust as their condition requires.

Medical officers in charge of general hospitals have received this offer of assistance and co-operation with great favor. They almost unanimously accept this plan, because it is *simple and practical, and in harmony with hospital arrangements, and the interests of the sick*. Besides the twenty-four diet kitchens already in successful operation, arrangements have been made for extending the work to all the military departments, and medical men every where are offering their aid and co-operation.

It is but just and proper to state, that the Surgeon-General and Assistant Surgeon-General have fully and generously expressed, in official papers and orders, their appreciation of this work, and the President and Secretary of War have ordered every facility for carrying it out. Medical inspectors, familiar with the plan and its workings, are calling attention to its importance; and, as far as I have been able to learn, medical officers greatly favor this systematic plan of co-operation. They have shown a readiness to accept help, and accede to arrangements for the relief and comfort of their sick, highly creditable to them.

It only remains for me to say that the ladies employed by the Christian Commission for this work, are selected with great care, and with a view to Christian character and fitness; and in their labors they have been successful, not only in securing the proper preparation of food, but in their ministrations as ward visitors among the sick and wounded, where kind words and Christian sympathy and solicitude are so much needed, and so gratefully received.

Some of the kitchens have been in successful operation for the last eight months; and, so far from any cause of complaint arising, the surgeons are liberal in expressions of commendation.

Cooking, for the most part, among soldiers, is a task to be gotten through with in the shortest possible time.

There is but little to stimulate them in their monotonous round of duty, and it is not surprising that, in most hospital kitchens, the variety and style are limited and common-place. Not so with these ladies; they come into the management of the kitchens with all the freshness and zeal of new and generous workers. They have every thing to stimulate them—the Commission to sympathize with and aid them—and it is made their business and study to so manage the diet kitchens, that the wants of every languishing soldier shall be judiciously, fully, and economically met.

Most kitchens have a small store-room attached, where the ladies keep such supplies and delicacies as the patients may need, and the Commission are able to supply.

This department of the work has made, and is still making heavy demands upon the Commission for stores; but as the generous people of the North find, through these kitchens, a *direct and certain channel* to the suffering soldiers, they are contributing more largely of their abundance than ever heretofore.

The supplies most needed to keep the kitchens up to the highest standard, are butter, eggs, canned and dried fruits, all kinds of pickles, onions, potatoes, tomatoes, crackers, apple butter, wines and jellies.

The limits of this paper will not allow a full discussion of this subject; the details and incidents connected with the work would fill volumes.

Hundreds of precious lives have been saved, and very many souls have been brought to the knowledge of Christ through this instrumentality.

ANNIE WITTENMYER,

*General Superintendent Special Diet Kitchens U. S. C. C.*

# LOAN LIBRARY SYSTEM.

By Chaplain J. C. Thomas.

We have 25 Loan Libraries in hospitals—20 at Nashville, one at Murfreesboro', and four at Chattanooga. We have the books bought for 175 more. Books for 100 Loan Libraries are now wanting to complete the work of supplying all the permanent hospitals in the country. These have 80,000 men, needing 40,000 volumes, or 800 libraries. Then the navy is to be supplied, and, so far as practicable, the regiments.

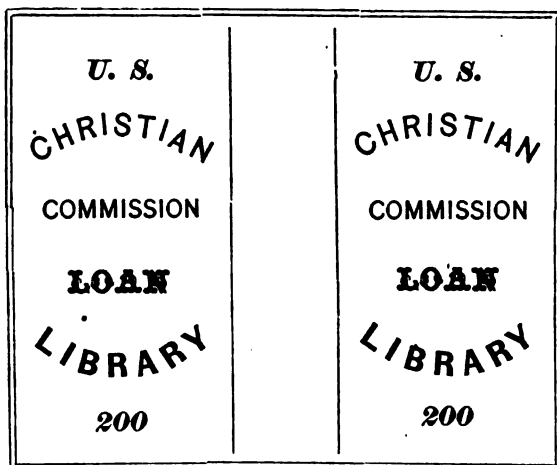
The books were selected from the catalogues of about fifty of the best publishing houses in the four great publishing cities—Boston, Cincinnati, New York and Philadelphia. Preparatory to the selection, about a hundred catalogues were procured, repeatedly gone through with and compared. Weeks were spent in studying the dictionaries of authors, and examining the works themselves in the book-stores and libraries. And, in the final choice, these rules were observed: *None but the best works. None but the best, most suitable and cheapest editions. Secular works, as well as religious. Utility rather than variety.* At first an arrangement was effected with the publishers, to have their books at half-price. But, in June last, that a catalogue might be published for selecting, ordering and receipting army and navy libraries, they agreed to regard their half-price *then*, as fixed throughout the year. And they have *fulfilled* the agreement, though, in many cases, at considerable loss. All honor to their benevolence and integrity!

Gould & Lincoln, of Boston, Poe & Hitchcock, of Cincinnati, Scribner & Co., of New York, and Ashmead & Evans, of Philadelphia, *besides* sharing in the general burden, have bought, packed and shipped the books procured in their respective cities, without charge for their services. They are deserving of *double* honor.

Adams' Express Company has freely transported the books to make up the libraries, and the libraries when made up. We tender them our heart-felt thanks.

Sixty of the cases have been made, by order of General Thomas, at Government expense, and a paper asking the Government to provide the remaining two hundred and forty, has been approved by the War Department.

Each case is three feet square, and eight inches deep; corners dove-tailed and iron-bound. Shelves for books, 18mo, 16mo, 12mo, and 8vo, with spaces respectively, six and a half, seven and a half, eight and a half, and ten and a half inches. Two panel-doors, each with good lock and key. Case stained, except door-panels, and varnished. Door-panel marked:



or other number.

Each Loan Library contains 125 volumes, all appropriately labeled and numbered, and neatly covered and numbered on the cover. On the inside of each door, (outside, of course, when open,) is a catalogue, in large type, of the works, arranged alphabetically by authors, and numbered, with additional numbers and spaces up to 160, to facilitate selection and delivery. There are also provided catalogues on cards, for the special convenience of patients who are unable to get to the library.

Every library is provided with a Register. This contains 172 pages—160 for regular entries, and 12 for incidental memoranda. In the front of the Register, in place of the usual fly-leaves, is a catalogue like that on the cards. The number of each volume, and the number of the page on which its record is kept, exactly correspond. For example, the record of volume 20 is kept on page 20. Each of the 160 pages has the following headings: Name, Regiment, Company, Ward, Bed, Drawn, Returned, Remarks. In "Remarks" column is indicated the influence of the volume on the reader, either by a brief statement, as, "Means of his conversion,"

or by a reference, as, "See Mem. Par. 24," (where details are given.)

No library is put into a hospital, except in charge of some responsible person, chaplain, surgeon, or other, who signs a "Receipt," "pledging his utmost ability to see the library skilfully employed, carefully preserved, and faithfully returned," "agreeing to forward promptly, at the expiration of each month, the desired Monthly Report," and "promising," &c.

The Monthly Report consists of two parts—statistical table and illustrative incidents. The table shows how many times each volume has been drawn during the month, or that it has remained in the library, or that it is lost. These data are taken from the "Drawn" column of the Register. The incidents are gathered from the "Remarks" and "Memoranda."

The Receipts and Monthly Reports, for both which there are appropriate blanks, are made to a General Librarian, who, therefore, knows where every library is, and, at the end of each month, its exact condition. He is able to keep a faithful history of every book and every library. Thus there are continually accumulating facts, that will prove very valuable for our future guidance, and for the world at large.

### HOLIDAY GIFT BOOKS.

Those coming into the Central Office, are formed into Loan Libraries *half* the size of the above, and sent to the men in the field. In order to make the most of these books, they are classified, on a long counter, into

HISTORICAL.	PHILOSOPHICAL.	POETICAL.
<i>History,</i>	<i>Philosophy,</i>	<i>Poetry,</i>
<i>Biography,</i>	<i>Science,</i>	<i>Fiction,</i>
<i>Travels.</i>	<i>Essays.</i>	<i>Sketches.</i>

These files are then equally distributed among as many cases as are necessary to exhaust them. Thus each library is made to represent as far as possible all classes of literature.

Of course all yellow-covered literature, lives of pirates and highwaymen, works against Christ and country, are thrown out as *bad*; and all little children's books, unusable incomplete works, controversies among Christian denominations, are laid by as *unsuitable*.

[Chaplain Thomas got the idea of "Loan Libraries" from the plan of the American Seaman's Friend Society. Detailed from his regiment by General Thomas, to act as Reading Agent for the Army of the Cumberland, he has pursued his plans with an energy almost beyond parallel, and with remarkable success.]

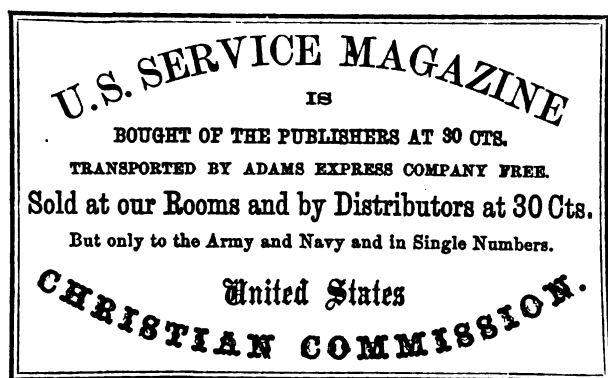
## MAGAZINES

### For the Army of the Cumberland.

This enterprise was begun in January, by J. C. Thomas, Chaplain 88th Illinois, and General Reading Agent, Army of the Cumberland. It was carried on by him till April, and then adopted by us, at his solicitation, and on the recommendations of Gens. Thomas, Grant, and Howard, and Rev. E. P. Smith, General Field Agent, with others.

During the year, there have been furnished to the Army of the Cumberland 35,000 fresh copies of "Littell's Living Age," "Atlantic Monthly," "Continental Monthly," "Eclectic Magazine," "Harper's Magazine," "U. S. Service Magazine," and "North American Review." These were bought of the Publishers at half-price, or other reduced rates, transported by Adams' Express Company, to Nashville, free; thence distributed to our stations below, and sold at cost, or less to make convenient "change."

To prevent mistake and misapprehension, each number was appropriately labelled. Here is a specimen:



It is the common testimony, that the movement has worked well, and accomplished much good.

Regiments in the field, away from our stations, should procure direct from the offices of publication, by mail.

To illustrate the importance of our Magazine work, Chaplain Thomas gives the following incident, out of many. He says:

In the afternoon of November 24th, 1863, I met on the side-

walk near the post office in Chattanooga, a soldier with a pile of 25 cent novels on his arm. He was trying to sell one to another soldier. Stopping, I asked, "How do you sell those?" "At 40 cents," he replied. Taking him to one side—"What do you pay for them?" "Thirty cents." "Have you parents living?" "Yes, sir." "Are they Christians?" "They are, and my brothers and sisters, too." "Would it not grieve them to see you doing this?" "I suppose it would. My mother taught me to pray, and I used to go to the Sunday-school. I never read a novel, such as these, in my life, till I came into the army, and I do not now when I can get any thing better." "What education have you had?" "I was ready in Mathematics and Latin, to enter college when the war broke out." "What is your name?" "Joseph H. Yundt, private, 10th Ind. Inf., now detailed as Postmaster to the Artillery Reserve, of seventeen batteries. When I left with the mail this morning, the boys told me to 'bring back *something* to read.' There was nothing else here—so I bought these." "How many have you sold?" "Not any; I was just offering them when you saw me." "How many have you sold before to-day, do you think?" "Not one; this is my first lot." "My brother soldier, I am very glad I have met you just at this point. You can still say, 'I never sold a copy of the vile trash.' Keep your honor. If you will come with me to my room, I will give you for the novels some specimen magazines, that will sell for as much, and they are good; the boys will like them. And I have some of Pitman's Manuals of Phonography, that I will let you have at cost, if you wish." "Pitman's Manual? I have been wanting to get a copy for a long time; I want to study it." The young soldier went with me to my room; made the exchange; bought what Manuals I had; promised me that he would never buy or sell another such novel; conversed with me freely about his soul, and evidently went away *glad*.

The novels in question were 12: 2 "Dick Turpin," 2 "Pirate's Son," 4 "Flying Artillerist," and 1 each, of "Red Rover," "Iron Cross," "Red King," and "Jacob Faithful."



## REPORTS

OF

### BASE OFFICES, ARMY AGENCIES AND BRANCHES.

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#### WASHINGTON AGENCY REPORT.

Until the opening of the campaign in May, the operations of our Commission at this base, continued about the same as when last reported. From that date they have been on a vastly enlarged scale, and of a more diversified character.

To meet the emergency, created by the battles of May, the work of the Commission needed to be expanded *at once* to dimensions unthought of hitherto. And with a noble generosity were we supplied with both men and stores. The first two weeks after communication with the army was opened, 270 delegates were sent from this office to Belle Plain, and Fredericksburg, to care for the wounded brought in from the battle-fields of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania.

The first day, May 10th, a company of 31 was organized and sent forth; May 11th, 21; 12th, 33; 13th, 21; 14th, 45; 16th, 84; 18th, 24; 19th, 37; and so on. The best men in our churches all over the land, many holding high positions in society—lawyers, physicians, clergymen, professors in colleges, cheerfully volunteered their services.

These were all furnished with outfit; and stores in vast quantities were sent forward, for their use in ministering to the thousands upon thousands of suffering soldiers.

The Government generously afforded us facilities for transportation, but our wants were such as to compel us for a season to charter a steam-tug and a schooner. The process thus detailed was repeated at each new base made by the army, at Port Royal, White House and City Point.

The service required at the hands of the delegates was most laborious and self-denying, tasking every power of "soul, body, and spirit," and not a few broke down in health under it. But all felt it to be a blessed privilege to suffer themselves, that they might relieve greater suffering, and in connection with ministrations to the body, to minister also to the immortal part; now dropping a word of cheer to the disciple of Jesus, now directing the anxious, now leading the thoughts of the dying in a few words of prayer, and administering to all the precious cordial of a tender and affectionate sympathy.

Simultaneously with what we were called upon to do, in supplying the Front, a new demand arose in Washington and Alexandria. All the Hospitals being crowded with the wounded, a thorough system of hospital work was promptly organized, to meet this part of the emergency. Chaplains, when there were Post Chaplains, ever cordially accepted this arrangement. Delegates were assigned, one, two, four, six, or eight, to a hospital, which was to be visited day by day. They conversed and prayed with the men from cot to cot; wrote letters for them; carried them such delicacies and articles of comfort as our store-room afforded, (thousands of dollars worth were thus given away—stimulants and other medicines being given always under the direction of the surgeons;) gave reading to such as were able to read and, when expedient, especially on the Sabbath, held short religious services in the wards. These services were then, and have been always, very highly prized by the patients, and have been a great comfort to multitudes, who had no other public means of grace.

This has been one of the richest fields for spiritual husbandry, and the adorable Head of the Church has furnished us with a choice class of laborers, who have faithfully borne the burden and heat of the day. We have seen very precious results of their labors. Our Sabbath evening meetings of delegates, kept up for several months, in which they gave an account of their experience in the hospitals the previous week, and particularly the previous day, were, uniformly, seasons of melting and stirring interest. Eternity will reveal surprising results from these patient and unostentatious labors.

As this report closes, we are beginning to introduce into these hospitals, under extremely hopeful auspices, the Diet Kitchen System. Arrangements are already perfected in four of the larger

hospitals. Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer has the superintendence of this department; a lady of rare qualifications for such a service, and who has had much experience in organizing and directing a work of the same kind in the West. Indeed, this is but an extension, under the same head, of the system there inaugurated.

It was found necessary early in the season to create at this office a Bureau of Information, which we have styled the "Individual Relief Department." This has given full employment to an efficient agent in answering the multitudinous inquiries of those seeking information about their friends in the army, whether living or dead, well or in hospital, within our lines or within the lines of the enemy, and the various other things which the anxious ones at home wish to know about their absent sons, brothers, and husbands.

We have also received at the hands of our agents with the army a vast number of soldiers' packages, and packages containing the effects of deceased soldiers, which have been forwarded by express to their friends.

Reference has been made to the great expansion of our work at this center at the opening of the campaign. We had not at that time a tithe of the accommodations we needed for either delegates or stores. After experiencing much inconvenience, we rented a large store-room on D street, and pitched a spacious tent on an open lot, opposite our house, for delegates to lodge under. Finally in the month of July, we leased a lot on 10th street, on which we erected, at a cost of about three thousand dollars, a building 32 feet in width by 100 feet in length, and two stories in height, which, with an addition, affords ample accommodation for general storage, for dormitory, sitting room, dining room, kitchen and laundry. We still keep the original building No. 500 H street, for office purposes, and as a store-house to draw from for home distribution in hospitals and elsewhere.

The local work has lost none of its interest or importance, and has been systematically and vigorously prosecuted by the Rev. O. P. Pitcher, who is mainly supported by the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Rev. John Kimball, whose salary is paid by a noble and generous Christian citizen. These are aided by the delegates and a number of resident ministers and laymen.

Some idea of the field may be gathered from the following extracts from the reports of Messrs. Pitcher and Kimball.

Mr. Kimball reports that, during seven months spent in laboring among the soldiers and sailors, he has distributed 13,253 Religious Newspapers, 1,122 Testaments, 10,425 pages of tracts, 766 Hymn Books, 512 Monthly Magazines, 105 Bound Books, and other reading of various kinds.

He has made 589 visits, and held 289 meetings. His visits have been in thirty-four different places, and meetings have been held in nearly all of these places.

One hundred and seventeen men, by count, have asked him to pray for them, and many others, who have not been counted. Most of them, we trust, have found the Saviour. "The Christian Commission workers are needed at the front; but they are also needed at Washington, where Satan spreads his most alluring snares."

### Rev. O. P. Pitcher's Report.

The Veteran Reserve Guards in and around the city; the Regular Infantry and Cavalry Guards; Sailors, Marines and Engineers; the vast multitude of soldiers passing through Washington, and halting, for a night or more, at the Soldiers' Rest;\* the Union prisoners and deserters confined in the different guard-houses of Washington and Georgetown; the rebel prisoners of war, guerrillas, bushwhackers and disloyal citizens confined in the Old Capitol and Carroll prisons during the year; the Quartermaster's men, composed of carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, saddlers, painters, trimmers, teamsters; ambulance, express and cart drivers; laborers, hostlers, watchmen, messengers, cooks, &c., besides several hundred in the Commissary Department, these constitute the classes among whom missionary labor has been performed.

Several things connected with this work demand particular attention.

1. From the changes taking place among the Veteran Guards, by the expiration of their term of service, from the constant changes in the prisons, &c., and the ever-changing concourse at the Soldiers' Rest, not less than 270,000 men, in one year, are brought within reach of missionary labor, at this point alone.

2. There is not a Chaplain in the whole field. This feature alone, when it is remembered that no place in the nation is more

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\* The number passing at this point, in 1863, exceeded two hundred thousand men, and the stream has not appeared to diminish in 1864.

filled with temptation, and the perils of vice and crime, than this, and that a large majority of the men are young, and *all* are away from the restraints of home, society and the church, is one of no ordinary interest.

3. In the mission field there are from twelve to fifteen small hospitals, widely separated from each other, and averaging from twenty to forty patients and attaches. In all these there is a peculiar demand for sympathizing Christian effort; first, because they have no Chaplains; and, secondly, because they are situated outside the public thoroughfares, and are, therefore, much more likely to be overlooked by visitors, and in the general distribution of supplies.

4. How to reach this entire field with the means of grace, at proper times; to minister to the sick and dying; and carry the gospel, by the living voice or upon the printed page, to every creature in all these destitute places, is the great question.

Several ministers and laymen have nobly volunteered to take some part of the work upon their hands. The Rev. S. Tustin, D. D., Messrs. Leech, Winslow, Stoddart, Pratt, Bryant, Wight and Dennis have labored, more or less, at certain points.

All my evenings, with scarcely an exception, are systematically devoted to meetings at different points; Sabbaths have from five to eight other appointments, some of them two or three miles apart. Some of our most precious seasons of worship have been enjoyed, a little after daylight, with convalescent and other soldiers, at the "Rest." At all our meetings we endeavor to distribute the Scriptures and other reading, according to the real demand, though sometimes restricted by a limited supply. This, together with singing, by those who often accompany me, adds greatly to the interest and profit of the meetings. Few services are held which do not result in imparting fresh encouragement to Christian soldiers, and in leading sinners to the Lord. Many will lift up their hands for prayers; some will rise voluntarily, confess their sins, ask for prayers, and express their resolution to live henceforth a Christian life, exhorting their companions to turn from all their sinful habits, and enlist with them in the service of God; while others have cried aloud for mercy, and soon after testified that they have felt their sins forgiven.

Some precious tokens of saving grace have been witnessed, at the hospitals and other places, in connection with personal efforts,

for the salvation of dying men. But my limits will not allow me to detail even the most encouraging incidents connected with this blessed work. An outline of labors in this local field, for about nine months of active service, since the date of my first annual report, (November 16th, 1863,) is indicated by the following figures:

Copies of Scriptures distributed, . . . . .	5,706
“ Hymn Books “ . . . . .	3,577
“ Knapsack Books distributed, . . . . .	3,235
“ Pamphlets, &c., “ . . . . .	141
“ Religious Papers “ . . . . .	47,245
Pages of Tracts distributed, . . . . .	108,883
Number of Religious Services held, . . . . .	490
Number who have expressed a desire to become Christians, (many of whom have heartily confessed their sins, and given evidence of turning to the Lord,) . . . . .	805
Number of visits to camps, hospitals and corrals, to aid the sick and wounded, distribute religious reading, and make arrangements for meetings, &c., .	275

Besides, much labor has been performed which cannot now be reported by figures, such as distributing stationery; obtaining clothing and blankets for those suffering with cold; looking after destitute families of soldiers; leading those in feebleness and want to places of relief; writing letters in behalf of the sick, and to the families and friends of the deceased, thus communicating their dying messages.

Such is but an imperfect glance at the great field of missionary labor, in the providence of God opened before us. The cheerful co-operation of superintendents and commanding officers; the supply of the Holy Scriptures by the American Bible Society; the constant and liberal contribution of religious reading by the U. S. Christian Commission, as also by both the New York and Boston branches of the American Tract Society; the thrilling awakenings and conversions; the touching experiences of trials and triumphs of grace, as related at the soldiers' meetings; the gratitude and delight with which they hail these privileges; the arduous and self-denying exertions of the Association to continue this work among them; and the far-reaching bearings which these efforts, by God's

blessing, may have upon the eternal welfare of thousands of immortal souls, might supply material for volumes. .

O. P. PITCHER,

*Missionary Young Men's Christian Association.*

WASHINGTON D. C., Jan. 1, 1865.

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We have not been able, as yet, to operate in the lines of forts around Washington so systematically as is desirable, though they have been by no means wholly neglected. We have a plan for more thorough visitation in the future, which we hope to enter upon soon. At Alexandria, the hospital work was organized, and has been prosecuted on a plan similar to that adopted in Washington, and with similar tokens of the divine favor.

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### **Alexandria and its Neighborhood.**

Our agent at Alexandria speaks of the increasing interest with which the work has been prosecuted. He says:

"We have distributed, in the twenty-three hospitals, twenty military camps, and five prisons, from two to three thousand religious periodicals weekly.

"In many instances we have had undoubted evidence of the saving of life by furnishing articles of food suited to the taste and immediate wants of patients. A case illustrative of this occurred at the Soldiers' Rest, in the month of August. Our delegate was directed to a man who, it was said, must soon die. He had retained nothing on his stomach for a long time. The emaciated frame and sunken eye told the sad tale, and revealed the almost certain result near at hand. The delegate tried the effect of a slice of bread from our table, with a little apple-butter. This was retained. The next day a small piece of mutton, nicely prepared, was tried with success. This the delegate continued to provide, from day to day, till the flesh came back upon the bones; and while the man stayed in the hospital, he was familiarly called 'the mutton man.' He speaks of the influence of these material gifts in preparing the already receptive mind of the suffering soldier for better things: 'A great many, in these twenty-three hospitals, have given pleasing evidence of a change of heart, during the past year. These, we humbly trust, are to be counted by scores and by hundreds.'

"Another part of the labors of this Commission has been in ministering to the troops in camp and forts in and around the city, when places could be found to hold public worship, and sometimes, when the weather would permit, in the open air. To these, also, we have made a regular distribution of religious periodicals, weekly.

"The five military prisons, containing from two to three thousand deserters, have also claimed our attention and services. Public worship has been held regularly in each of the eighteen wards, by our delegates, every Sabbath day; in some instances with very encouraging results, and in other cases amid the insults of the degraded, who so largely compose that wretched class of humanity.

"Special attention has been given, at this station, to maintaining a suitable library, and a systematic distribution of its books, which has resulted in great good. Within the last few months the library has been more than doubled, and now contains about a thousand volumes, which are being constantly read by soldiers in hospitals and camps. No one thing, of all we have attempted to do for the soldier, is a more complete success than this.

"In conclusion, we desire to mention the consideration and courtesy extended to our delegates on the part of surgeons, chaplains and military officers. With a single exception, this has been all that we could have desired; and for many a personal favor and special opportunity of increasing usefulness we feel very thankful."

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Our delegate went into one of the hospitals on Washington street, and found there a man whose countenance betrayed the deepest sadness of heart. His fellow-sufferers whispered, "He will not long survive, he is so sad and melancholy." The delegate approached, inquiring how he was. "Oh, the same thing over and over," says he. "Can I do any thing for you?" inquired the delegate; "write a letter to some friend, or *any* thing?" "I have no friends," he replied. "No father, no mother?" "No." "No brother, no sister?" "No. Stay; there is an old man living near Albany, that I used to work for; you may write to him." The delegate wrote the letter, and talked to him about his soul; assured him that he had friends all over the country, praying for him. "They have sent me to talk to you, and to aid you, if you need any thing. Here is a comfort-bag. See how nice it is; all these



little conveniences. Don't say 'No one cares for you.' The next day the delegate called again, and found the wounded man mending his garment with the contents of his comfort-bag, for he had began to think that it was better to try to live, and, what is better than all, to become a sincere inquirer after the way of salvation through Christ, and, in the course of a few days, came to a sweet experience in religious things.

At Camp Barry, a camp of artillery instruction, we have had an agent, most of the time, whose efforts have not been without the divine blessing. Early in the spring a commodious chapel was erected at that place at a cost of \$700, of which \$500 was contributed by the officers and soldiers.

At Camp Stoneman our faithful agent, Rev. S. W. Tenney, who had witnessed an almost continuous revival for eight months, was prostrated, in June, with typhoid fever, and lived but a few days. Our work there, one of our best fields, is at an end, the camp having been recently broken up.

To compensate, however, for this loss, a station has just been established at Fairfax Court House; at which, and at Fairfax Station, Vienna, Falls Church, Prospect Hill, and other points in the vicinity, more than seven thousand soldiers will be reached. A large hall at Fairfax Court House, secured to us by military authority, for religious meetings, is to be dedicated to that use, by appropriate services, on the next Sabbath, the first Sabbath of 1865.

Camp Stoneman stretches about two miles along the line of hills on the south side of the eastern branch of the Potomac, and embraces within its scope Forts Carroll and Greble. At the north end of this camp is Geisboro Hospital, which, in September last, contained about six hundred patients, mostly from the cavalry service, this being exclusively a cavalry camp.

The medical department of the camp was under the direction of Dr. A. Hurd, Surgeon-in-Chief. Dr. Hurd is a Christian gentleman of integrity, and high scientific attainments, and was one of our warmest friends and supporters. General Gamble highly appreciated the labors of the Commission, and cheerfully responded to all our calls for assistance, as did also the commandants of the several divisions.

In our chapel tent, daily services were held the whole year round, and were, generally, well attended. Owing to the shortness of the soldiers' stay—sometimes only two or three days; ten days or two

weeks being seldom reached, except in isolated cases—the impressions made could not be followed up, so as to ascertain their final results.

Our agent there writes: “By these godly men (the delegates) a thousand little acts of kindness were performed and aid rendered which won upon the better feelings of the ‘boys,’ and gave them a large influence over them. Here they learned to love and prize the ministers of the gospel and pious laymen; in short, the church; as they saw its standard-bearers and their co-laborers bearing in one hand the open Bible, and in the other the needed material aid. Over this wide field the laborers scattered the precious seed, and reaped in their own bosom a rich reward of their labors. Along this line of forts, at the hospitals, in the camp, and especially at our chapel service, most touching incidents transpired.

“These evening meetings were generally well attended, and were seasons of great profit; scarcely an evening passed that some one did not signify his desire for salvation. At times they even rose to a sublimity of interest. On more than one occasion, after deeply and attentively listening to the truth, moved by the stirring appeals to the conscience and the hearts, the whole congregation, *en masse*, have arisen to their feet, desiring an interest in the prayers of God’s people.”

Camp Distribution has continued through the year, as previously, to be the theatre of marvels of divine grace, as will be seen from the excellent report of its agent.

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#### The Work of the U. S. Christian Commission at Camp Distribution, Virginia, 1864.

This camp is situated near the line of the Alexandria and Loudon Railroad, about four miles from Washington, and nearly as far from Alexandria, and was formerly known as Camp Convalescent. There are barracks to accommodate five thousand soldiers, and, in closer quarters, seven thousand five hundred. There are other barracks, where a regiment of Veteran Reserves, a thousand strong, which guards the camp, has its quarters. When full, the camp contains from seven to eight thousand men. Then there are six forts and one battery near at hand, which require a thousand men,

to have them properly manned and work the guns with efficiency. There is, also, a camp for the accommodation and instruction of colored soldiers, where there have been from three to twelve hundred men at a time.

The delegates of the Christian Commission have endeavored to visit all these places every week, and to hold such religious services as circumstances would permit; also, to distribute Testaments, Hymn Books, and religious reading of various kinds.

To the sick we have given medicine, and food and clothing to the destitute; and received the thanks and blessings of the grateful recipients. At the chapel we have held two services daily—a prayer-meeting in the morning, at nine o'clock, and preaching at half past six in the evening—which have been largely attended, and greatly blessed to thousands of souls.

Many of God's people have borne testimony to the value of these services, from their own experience, and blessed God for the establishment of the Christian Commission, and its labors at this camp. And many others have been hopefully converted, and gathered into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

During the year, we have been permitted to minister to the temporal necessities and labor for the spiritual welfare of more than ninety thousand of our brave men, who have gone forth for the defence of their country, in her struggle for the maintenance of our Government and the rights of man.

More than seven hundred sermons have been preached, with the accompanying exercises of prayer and praise, and more than nine hundred prayer-meetings have been held, in which the soldiers have taken an active and most acceptable part.

Over thirteen thousand Testaments have been given to as many soldiers, and about eighty thousand religious newspapers have been distributed, besides many thousands of Hymn Books, soldiers' books, tracts, pamphlets and bound volumes. And this is but an outline of the labor done by the Christian Commission, at this camp and the surrounding forts.

The results of our labor have been most encouraging and precious. Almost daily there have been inquirers after the way of salvation. Perhaps it may be called a *continuous revival*. Certainly the Holy Spirit has been present in great power, convincing of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Many thousands have been awakened to feel their need of a Saviour, and to ask for

the prayers of Christians ; and we believe that thousands have been born of the Spirit, and brought into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Evening after evening, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, and sometimes a hundred, have risen at a time, to be specially remembered in prayer. Of course we expect them to become the followers of the Lamb. And many cases of great interest have come under our observation. Let me give a few.

At midnight a knock was heard at the door, and, on answering the call, a soldier replied, "I want to talk about my soul." He was so deeply convicted of his lost condition as a sinner, that he could not rest nor sleep. He was an avowed Universalist, and had partaken of the Lord's Supper on the previous Sabbath. He said: "I professed to love the Saviour, and thought I might come to his table; but I ought not to have done so. Those terrible words\* that you uttered have been ringing in my ears ever since, and I find no peace." He was directed to Jesus, as just the Saviour he needed, and assured that he would find pardon and peace, through grace, in His name. After further conversation and prayer, he returned to his bed in the hospital, and spent a sleepless night. The next morning he came down to tell what the Lord had done for his soul. "I am very happy," was his reply to the inquiries, "How do you do, this morning? Did you make an entire consecration of yourself to God, last night?" "Oh, yes," said he. "I did not dare to sleep till I had done that; and when I had done it, I was so happy that I did not want to sleep." For several days in succession he came to tell us how happy he was in his mind, and what peace he had with God.

Another said: "I want to thank you, before I leave, as the means, under God, of my conversion." He was intemperate, as well as impenitent. Another asked for prayer in his own behalf, saying: "I am going to the front, in the morning, and I want to find mercy from God before I go." The next morning we received a message from him, that he was on his way to the front, and that he carried the Saviour with him, in his heart.

Another rose, in our morning prayer-meeting, and asked to be baptized. He was requested to give his religious experience, when he stated that he was born in Philadelphia, where his mother died when he was seven years old. She taught him the Lord's Prayer,

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\* 1 Cor. xi. 29.

which he continued to repeat, and which was the means of his conversion. When the rebellion broke out, his father entered the rebel service, and is now a Major-General in the army under General Lee. The son remained loyal and true, and entered the Federal army. He was employed in the secret service, and was often within the rebel lines. While at Little Rock, Arkansas, he was recognised, betrayed, captured, court-martialled, and condemned to be hung, as a spy. After his capture he was confined in a cell five and a half feet long, five and a half feet high, and two and a half feet wide. Being six feet and two inches in stature himself, of course he could not stand erect nor stretch himself in any way. Here he was confined three months, without seeing the light, and fed on bread and water twice a day. "I should have died," said he, "had not my Heavenly Father fed me with the 'bread of life,' and cheered me with his presence." He lost one hundred and eighteen pounds during his confinement. When the day for his execution came, he was taken to the scaffold, his arms pinioned, his feet upon the trap-door, the black cap over his eyes, and the rope around his neck. Said he: "I was expecting to be ushered into eternity every moment; and that was the happiest moment of my life, for I felt sure I should see my Saviour and my mother."

But God delivered him. On the staff of the General in command was the father of our hero, and he recognised his son in that awful condition; and though the father did not ask it, the life of the son was spared for the father's sake. Afterwards he effected his escape, and is still in the service of his country.

Of course we baptized him, and he has since witnessed a good confession.

Another said, "I came to this camp a great sinner. Oh, I was very wicked! But I have found the Saviour. Here I have been born again, and now this is to me the dearest spot on earth."

Another: "I have been here several nights with a great load resting upon me. It seemed like a mountain, and I thought I must go over it, and around it, or under it. But since I came here to-night, it has just burst; it is all gone, and I feel happy in the love of God."

Similar instances are occurring almost daily, and might be detailed, if space would allow. The interest continues, and the work goes on with unabated power. It is clearly evident to us that the

Lord's arm is not "shortened, that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

And we are looking for yet greater mercies. Indeed, there seems to be an increasing interest in the places around the camp where service is held, and we hope for greater blessings than have yet been received.

The Lord's Supper is administered on the first Sabbath in every month; and it seems to be highly prized as a special privilege and means of grace, by the people of God who are sojourning at this camp, or passing through it to the field of conflict. And many young converts, as new-born babes, desiring the sincere milk of the Word, that they may grow thereby, have received the memorials of the Saviour's body and blood, and, for the first time, celebrated the dying love of Jesus in the sacrament of the Supper.

We have also a Temperance organization, with a roll of more than three thousand names, who have pledged themselves to total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, and the number is constantly increasing.

In view of these facts, and when we consider that this camp is daily undergoing changes, one, two, three, five, or ten hundred leaving in a day, and as many coming in to take their places, and that still the religious interest continues, sinners are awakened and turned to righteousness, and rejoice in the salvation of God, must we not feel that "this is the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes?" Let us give Him all the glory.

"Neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth, but God who giveth the increase."

JAMES P. FISHER,

*In charge of Station at Camp Distribution.*

We desire to bear our cordial and decided testimony to the zeal and efficiency of our permanent agents in this field. The position is a trying one, and requires not a little grace and judgment to deal with so many men, with such varied notions. It would be difficult to find four better men for the work than we have in the persons of Rev. J. J. Abbott, at Washington; Rev. O. C. Thompson, at Alexandria; Rev. Jas. P. Fisher, at Camp Distribution; and Rev. J. C. Kingsly, at Camp Stoneman, now superintending the work in the outer line of defences.

## FIELD AGENCY.

### Armies in Eastern Virginia.

JOHN A. COLE, GENERAL FIELD AGENT.

The new year, 1864, opened very auspiciously for the U. S. Christian Commission in the Army of the Potomac. The great army, with its five corps, stretched along a line of immense extent; its front, facing the enemy at the Rapidan, had built its winter habitation, and, though ever vigilant, was at rest.

Its vast encampments covering valley, hill, and plain for many miles, comfortable, symmetrical, clean, adorned with gigantic arches of evergreen and artificial groves, swarming with healthy, vigorous men, at whose hands the winter hours dragged heavily, supplied a wondrously inviting field for the highest and noblest work of the Christian Commission.

Brandy Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, was the army base; and, being but a mile from Headquarters, the First Corps but a few miles to the westward, Kilpatrick's Cavalry, and the Second Corps, a few miles to the south, the Third and Sixth Corps close at hand upon the north, and the Fifth Corps easily accessible along the line of railway, was selected as the most fitting location for the Commission supply station.

It was resolved, in beginning the winter's work, to reach in a thorough and effective manner, every regiment, battery, and squadron in the army, giving to each a regular supply of good religious reading, comprising Bibles, Testaments, Soldiers' Hymn Books, religious papers, of all denominations and from all sections of the country, tracts and books, expressly prepared for this circulation; and also, by establishing "stations," each provided with a comfortable chapel-tent, to give to every man an opportunity of hearing the preaching of the Word.

This plan included, besides the accustomed features of the Commission work, one entirely new, and which, while calling for a great outlay of funds and labor, promised a rich reward.

This was nothing less than a plan to furnish the chaplains of each brigade in the army, with the means of providing themselves

with a commodious and comfortable place of worship. For two long winters, owing to the expense of chapel-tents, and the great difficulties attending transportation, the chaplains of the army had, with very few exceptions, been obliged to forego the great and almost indispensable advantage of having in their regiments a suitable place where they could collect the men under their charge for divine worship. It was a deprivation sorely felt by these faithful men, left as they were, almost helpless at the very time when they, whose spiritual guides they were, needed their spiritual guidance most. The way in which this most desirable end was to be attained, was by mutual effort on the part of the soldiers and the Commission, the one building such part of the church as they were able, the other completing the edifice. The great difficulty had always been to secure material for the roof. The walls could be put up with logs and poles, the floor and seats comfortably prepared, but, by no possibility, could the material for a roof, in the army, be secured.

The Commission, therefore, to complete buildings, thus far advanced, proposed to provide a large sheet, or "fly" of canvas, bound firmly with rope, and having cords to fasten it to the walls. To make the gift more complete, music books for the choir, and a large stove, with pipe, was also furnished.

This proposition was joyfully received, by both chaplains, officers, and men; and brigades vied with each other, to see which should have the most beautiful structure.

The field agents in charge of the prosecution of this plan, Rev. C. W. Jenkins and Rev. E. F. Williams, very soon had fifteen well arranged stations, so located as to reach every part of the army with their influence. All of these had chapels, or some convenient place of worship. The stations situated in the towns of Warrenton and Culpepper used deserted churches for this purpose.

Sixty coverings for chapel walls were also issued to chaplains, in all parts of the army; and almost, as by magic, beautiful temples, most tastily planned and decorated, sprang up in the midst of the camps.

From these stations, and from these chapels, an influence, more powerful than any human tongue can tell, went forth. At every station of the Commission, and in very many of the brigade chapels, meetings for the worship of God were held *each night*—be-



sides meetings for the study of the Bible, which, in some stations, were held daily; and at all, the presence of the Divine Spirit was manifest, in the conviction and conversion of men.

The "stations" of the Commission were all, with the exception of those in the villages, constructed upon the same plan. The large chapel-tent, beautifully proportioned, of white canvas, with an arched awning over its broad door, and the white chapel-flag floating above it, was the crowning feature of the station. Within, besides the closely arranged seats, was a table to be used in the day-time, as a counter for books, and papers, and as a writing table for such soldiers as might desire to use it. Sometimes a "bunk" was placed in one corner for the use of the delegates, or any visitors who might there chance to spend the night. Besides this tent, was one wall-tent, and sometimes two, small, but well floored, and well arranged, and used for kitchen, dining-room, and lodging.

Three delegates were usually at each station—one of them, at least, being a clergyman. The cooking for the station was sometimes done by a detailed soldier, but more frequently by the delegates themselves, each taking his turn.

The work performed at the station, is of quite a varied nature. Early in the morning, two of the delegates taking an armful of papers and books, go to some regiment or battery in their field, perhaps a mile distant, and distribute these to the soldiers they meet, seeking out the sick, if there be any, and giving an invitation for all to come to the evening meeting, or making an appointment for an open-air meeting. By personal conversation they exhort the soldiers, with whom they come in contact, to live holy lives, appealing to their better nature against the various forms of sin which assail them. At the tent the Bible-class is held; in some cases, forty or fifty soldiers attending. In the course of the day, many visitors come to the station; chaplains, to get reading for their men, or some delicacy for a sick man; officers, for a copy of their home paper, or a book from the library; soldiers, for reading, or perhaps a towel, or "house-wife," or perhaps with anxious minds, desiring to talk with the man of God about the way of salvation.

So the day passes—each hour filled with busy work, which, although not recorded on earthly tablets, leaves an impress for eternity.

As the evening hour approaches, the soldiers from all directions may be seen flocking to the chapel. Here a soldier, who, all alone, is turning his feet toward the tabernacle, there, a group of eight or ten from a distant camp.

The tent is soon filled; every seat, and every foot of standing-room occupied. The service begins; the old time-honored hymn is followed by the earnest prayer, the tearful exhortation; the anxious ones rise amid their fellows, asking prayers, that they too might receive eternal life. Yes, in that lowly tabernacle, in the midst of camps, and of warlike men, is found a sweet foretaste of the coming heaven!

It has been attempted by some to number those who gained a knowledge of Jesus at these stations, but it seems labor spent in vain to do this. God has set his seal upon them, and "The Lord knoweth them that are His." Indeed, by no possible array of figures or statistics, can the influence of these winter stations be exhibited. None can ever know how much of sin they have prevented; how many despondent, doubting Christians have been encouraged and strengthened; how many seeds of Divine truth, sown in hearts seemingly unmoved, were destined some future day to bring forth perfect fruit. None can reckon the value of that comfort given to the faithful soldier, who, in his hard pilgrimage, gained, in these tents of prayer, the Delectable Mountains, and caught a view of the Celestial City. None can tell how many weary, heart-sick boys, have found in those rooms, the sympathy and love their souls longed for, as though again within the charmed circle of home.

In such labors as these the months passed quickly. The warm days of spring came again, the roads hardened, inspections of troops and grand reviews became frequent, the Lieutenant-General appeared, and raised his new flag at Culpeper. The old army corps were re-arranged, and we could not shut our eyes to the fact—the fearful fact—that all these pleasant scenes must end, to be replaced by scenes of blood and battle.

One by one the stations were removed. It was a touching sight to witness the emotions displayed, as, for the last time, the soldiers gathered in their accustomed place, and lingered, unwilling to tear themselves away from the spot which had become so dear, so precious to their souls.

It was decided to organize the entire force of the Christian Com-

mission for the active campaign into *sections*, each being in charge of an experienced agent, and being, as far as possible, complete in itself. One of these was to be attached to each army corps in the army of the Potomac; one to Burnside's corps, which, it was then expected, would act independently upon a naval expedition; one with the army of the James, which was collecting in the vicinity of Fortress Monroe and Yorktown; and one to act as a *supply section*, charged with the duty of opening communication at the earliest possible moment with the sections in the army after an engagement.

The Ninth Corps was eventually joined to the army of the Potomac, so that when the campaign began our organization stood thus:—section with Second Corps, Rev. C. W. Jenkins in charge, two wagons, heavily loaded with stores, and five delegates; section with Fifth Corps, Rev. E. F. Williams in charge, one wagon and six delegates; section in Sixth Corps, Jas. A. Worden, Esq., in charge, one wagon and five delegates; section with Ninth Corps, F. E. Shearer, Esq., in charge, one wagon and seven delegates; section with army of the James, Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, J. R. Miller, Esq., in charge, one wagon and ten delegates; supply section, H. H. Clark, Esq., in charge. This organization, with few modifications, has been maintained throughout the campaign, and has proved well adapted to the exigencies of the work.

Thus, our preparations made, our stations removed, we had, on the 1st of May, freed ourselves from the encumbrances of the winter, and were ready, in "light marching order," to start at a moment's notice upon the expected "advance."

The order came at night on the 3d of May,—swiftly it sped along the lines from camp to camp, from corps to corps. Before that potent word, as in a twinkling, all was changed; where lay the winter's camp, in all its peculiar beauty, but broken walls and blackened posts remained; while the close columns, marching silently forward through the shadows of the night, throwing back from polished gun and bayonet blade a few reflected gleams of moonlight, were all that told of the winter's rest, all that foretold the coming strife.

The Rapidan was safely crossed, the bridges taken up behind us; and then, in the close tangle of the "Wilderness," began the conflict.

Joining the flying hospitals of each corps during the days of the "Wilderness" battles, each section was vigorously at work.

Pitching a little tent near the hospital grounds, some of the de-

legates preparing a fire-place, and bringing wood and water, made large camp kettles full of coffee, beef soup, and milk punch; while others, taking wash-basins, soap, bandages, and sponge, with which they came provided, busily labored among the bloody, fainting men, who lay in rows beneath the canvass awnings, and under the trees, and along the roads.

On all sides are cases of distress;—this one calling for water, that one for change of posture or dressing for his wound, here one in the chill of death, anxious to send a last message to the home friends, or to hear once more the words of prayer. What wonder, then, that some, forgetting every thing but that unspeakable distress and want about them, labored until they sank fainting from fatigue!

Working by day, marching by night, exposed to rain and cold and danger, cooking food for the famishing, binding the wounds of the suffering, cheering with Christian consolation the despondent and the dying, doing a thousand acts of kindness, as soon forgotten as performed, these delegates and agents of the Commission staid at their posts through all those days of fighting and marching, which at length brought the army of the Potomac and the army of the James together, on either side of the Appomattox, before the strong works of Petersburg. It will be impossible here to describe more in detail the work of these sections during this campaign: each one is worthy of report, and a true history of any one would be filled with incidents of thrilling interest, but space and time forbid.

A great and very important work was done throughout this campaign by the "supply section," and by delegates, who labored only at the various posts which were used as temporary depot hospitals. On the 8th of May, immediately after the battle of the Wilderness, the wounded were placed in long trains of ambulances and army wagons, and taken to the city of Fredericksburg, on their way north.

Two sections of the Commission—the "Sixth" and "Ninth"—attended them on the march, and remained with them until relief came by way of Belle Plain.

In the course of the day, the army of wounded men, variously estimated at from ten to fifteen thousand, was poured in upon the rebel city. Every church and hall, court-house and theatre, with whole blocks and streets of stores and dwelling-houses, were taken for hospitals.

With only a small corps of surgeons—almost entirely destitute of

food and medical supplies—having but few men competent to act as nurses and attendants, their condition was pitiable and wretched in the extreme, and must so remain until stores and nurses were sent from the North to their relief. The agents and delegates who were with these men, found every thing which they had in their heavily loaded wagons, precious beyond estimate.

Barrels of crackers, sugar, coffee, boxes of milk, brandy, rags and bandages, soap, chloroform, plaster, every thing so carefully selected, was needed to save the very lives of men. Literally, thousands of sufferers received from these stores, for two or three days, nearly all the sustenance they had.

A fine large mansion, furnished throughout, but deserted by its owners, and occupied only by slaves, was taken to be used as headquarters of the Christian Commission, in anticipation of the corps of "minute-men" expected.

They were soon on the ground—a noble army of surgeons, clergymen, lawyers, and merchants, coming equipped for work, to the number of over two hundred men. The agent in charge of the supply section had succeeded in his duties, and was the first to land stores and men at Belle Plain, the new base, and was able to minister to a thousand wounded men, who had reached the shore, before any other relief organization was on the ground. He brought, besides tents and cooking utensils, an additional number of wagons and horses, and a large stock of supplies—so that very soon the Commission had most efficient stations, both at Fredericksburg and at Belle Plain.

The corps of delegates at Fredericksburg were organized in such a way as to insure the careful visitation of every hospital in the city and suburbs. A store-room was opened, and the supplies received from Belle Plain were carefully issued, the delegates in nearly every case superintending their distribution to the needy men. Committees were appointed to watch for the trains of ambulances from the front, ready to give nourishment to the wounded, or assist in their removal to their rude hospital, to see that the hospitals were supplied with ice and straw, and to search the streets and houses for any men who might have been overlooked in the great throng.

The delegates, under the direction of the "Corps Captains," spent the day in assisting the surgeons and nurses, in writing letters for the men, and holding prayers—in some cases night and

morning, in other hospitals but once a day—in every ward. Many of the delegates being surgeons of known ability, were put in charge of hospitals by the Medical Director, and others were made ward masters, having oversight of the army nurses.

In many ways, for two long weeks, the delegates worked night and day among the wounded.

Loads of straw were “foraged,” and brought to the city for bedding; loads of ice, found in the ice-houses of the vicinity, were distributed; many tons of clothing, fruit, and hospital stores, were brought from Belle Plain, and hundreds of meetings and funerals attended.

For several days the wounded were sent as fast as transportation could be obtained over the mountain roads to Belle Plain; but the roads became so bad, that the lives of men were endangered. The Government soon rebuilt the railroad from Acquia Creek to Falmouth, and the men were then transported very comfortably and safely to the boats.

When the order to evacuate the city came, a tent of the Commission was pitched at Falmouth, near the railroad, where the wounded were being loaded upon cars, and kettles of farina, coffee and lemonade prepared and given to the poor sufferers. Many who were near to death were brought there, and left upon the ground in the cold rain throughout the night. Some died there; and doubtless many more would have died, had it not been for the constant care bestowed upon them by the delegates of the Commission, and the food and stimulants given. A constant stream of men, halt, lame and blind, in ambulances, on crutches, on stretchers, poured for days out from the streets of Fredericksburg, across the long pontoon, up to the railroad station. Soon all had gone, and on the 28th of May the “dolorous city” was given up to its inhabitants.

Touching a few hours at Port Royal, the supply section was next established at White-House, where, for two weeks, was a scene of remarkable activity.

Before any wounded had reached this point, a fine station had been established by Mr. Miller, who now joined the army of the Potomac with his section; and after the arrival of the supply section, fifty delegates were ready for any work. Having obtained notice of the first long train of wounded coming from the battles on the Pamunky, and learning that for thirty hours, they had, many

of them, been without food, preparations were made to supply them from the wagons. It was found that, the bridge being out of repair, it would be necessary for them to lie still another night in the ambulances, about two miles from the station, and across the river.

The steam tug chartered by the Commission to tow a schooner, loaded with stores from Washington, was loaded with tents, kettles, crackers, milk, etc., and a station set up on the other side of the river. Towards morning the long train of wounded arrived, a piteous sight, weary and faint from pain and loss of blood; thirsty, hungry, and cold, the poor men could not restrain their groans and cries for help. Very soon the hot coffee and milk biscuit were passed from wagon to wagon,—while with basin, sponge, bandages, and gentle touch, the delegates, crawling into the narrow ambulances, bathed the face, combed out the hair, removed the hard, offensive bandage from the wound, and put clean, cooling linen in its place. A thousand men were doubtless relieved in these ways during the few hours which this station remained.

But, in the mean time, the battles of Cold Harbor had been fought, and many wounded were coming in at all hours of the day and night. An immense hospital of tents was established at White-House; and the corps of delegates were divided into companies, and assigned to the different corps hospitals. Tents were erected by the Commission, at which soldiers could have their wounds dressed, and be supplied with nourishing food. Thousands were in this way supplied with coffee and soup, papers and books, letter paper and pencils. Hundreds of packages, which otherwise would have been lost, containing the effects of soldiers who had been killed, were taken to forward to their friends. Delegates were also assigned by the Medical Director to go upon the hospital transports,—in some cases having the entire charge of nursing and feeding the wounded, who filled the boats, throughout the voyage.

The sections at the front were also kept well supplied from this station, a train of four-horse wagons passing back and forth between the base and the flying hospitals.

Another "flank movement!"—and again our station is broken up, and moved by water down the river, and up the James, landing at City Point on the 15th of June.

Here began a work, which, in one respect, that of *place*, has been permanent. Although many battles have been fought, and many changes have occurred, still the location and position of several sta-

tions were the same at the close of the year as those established in the month of June. City Point has, through all this time, been the base of supply; the stations, with few changes, have remained with their corps, and the work of the Commission has gone steadily forward. Stations were already established at Bermuda Hundreds and Point of Rocks, the latter being an important station to the present day.

From the 1st of July, until the 1st of December, from eight to ten stations have been in full and successful operation. One in each army corps, supplied with a wagon and horses for independent transportation, moves constantly with the hospitals, and is the Commission's head-quarters for that corps; other stations, depending upon this for support, being established from time to time, as they are needed.

These stations were generally manned by six or eight delegates, and had a large chapel "fly" neatly pitched, beneath which, in the day-time, stores were distributed, and in the evening, prayer meetings were held; and, in addition, two or three smaller tents for the accommodation of delegates.

During the months of July and August, the heat being excessive, and the exposure of our troops being great, both from the frequent battles and the damp trenches, a large quantity of supplies, beyond what Government furnished, were needed, and each station was supplied liberally with hospital stores, vegetables, and ice, for distribution. The soldiers, worn out by the excessive fatigue of the campaign, fell, many of them, a prey to disease, and the hospitals were always full. The regular supply of religious reading was again attempted; and although often interrupted by the frequent movement of troops, became a source of great good.

In nearly every station a prayer meeting was held each evening, and most precious seasons they were to many a soul. Revivals of great power followed the labors of nearly every station.

Battle-field stores were kept at all times on hand; and at an hour's notice the station could be removed, packed upon the wagon, and ready for a march.

The delegate in these stations had a twofold work: first, the systematic daily visitation of the field hospitals; second, distribution of reading matter, and preaching in the open air to the soldiers in the trenches, and along the lines.

In visiting the field hospitals from day to day, every person need-



ing special assistance was sought out, and if he needed food, or clothing, or book, or letter written, or words of cheer and Christian counsel, they were freely given. Whenever a battle occurred, the delegates being near, were promptly on the ground ready to give such help as they could render. These labors were not performed, however, by the Commission, without many drawbacks and difficulties. Sickness deprived us from time to time of our most experienced agents and delegates, while the sultry weather made it almost impossible for delegates coming from the North to undergo the physical exertion involved in their arduous work.

Soon after the occupation of City Point by our forces, a Depot Hospital was established on a broad plain above the Appomattox, about one mile from the James river. Here a station of the Commission was at once erected, and here, for more than six months, has been in most successful operation.

But a kind Providence led us on, step by step; when the way before us was the darkest, then the Master seemed to interpose in our behalf, and not a week passed, without giving fresh cause for thanksgiving and new exertions.

This hospital partook somewhat of the nature of both a field and general hospital. It was really a collection of five distinct hospitals, in which from four to ten thousand men were collected. Here was always a field for Christian Commission labor, more extensive than we could ever cover. Hundreds dying, thousands suffering, needing aid and help of every kind, surely the delegate was never at a loss for want of work to do!

From fifteen to thirty delegates have been constantly employed at this great station.

The hospitals themselves were simply canvas tents, pitched upon wide streets, on what was not long since a cultivated field. In the sultry days of summer the dust became almost suffocating, and greatly increased the sufferings of the patients. To remedy this, a steam fire engine was generously loaned the Commission by the city of Baltimore, which, stationed near the river bank, sprinkled the entire camp, laying the dust, and purifying the whole atmosphere. It was a real blessing to thousands, giving to every one fresh courage. Early in July, a large chapel tent, sixty feet in length, was put up at this station; and when the weather became cold, a large frame chapel was built, to take its place. In these, meetings have been held, every afternoon and every evening, for many months, and

during all this time have been fully attended. Indeed, a constant revival has been in progress here, and it is believed over five hundred souls have here been born again.

It is a strange and interesting sight—these meetings thronged with soldiers—heads bandaged, arms in slings, pale faces, crutches and canes in all parts of the house—an earnest, tearful band of worshippers.

Every week this band is broken, some are called back to the “front;” some go to the more northern hospital; but there are always more to take their place, and the room remains full.

A fine, large reading-room, with writing-tables and a circulating library, has here been in operation nearly six months.

As the hot days of summer and the cool, delightful days of autumn wore away, all looked forward with high hopes to the winter season, when, for a time, the soldiers would be in quiet camps, and when once more chapels might be raised, and every regiment blessed with the gospel brought to their very doors.

The order for winter-quarters, long-delayed, came at length. Ten thousand axes in a few days laid low whole forests of pine, and, as by magic, the little huts and cabins rose from the very ground, until city after city was complete, stretching from the Lynchburg Railroad below Petersburg, around that besieged city, across the Appomattox and the James, to within five miles of Richmond—a line, bristling with forts, of more than fifty miles extent.

Once more the blessed opportunity is ours. The quiet camps again invite to earnest, prayerful work. Once more, before these thousands of brave men are called to the conflict and to death, the gospel of peace, the good news of salvation can be proclaimed. Once more may we see soldiers flocking to the house of prayer as doves to their windows.

The plan adopted for this winter is the same as that which proved so successful during the last, only each station is to be made more spacious and inviting. The chapels are to be two or three times larger, and reading-rooms and circulating libraries more frequent. Already fifteen stations are in successful operation, each provided with an elegant chapel, and employing, in all, about seventy-five delegates. As yet, the laborers are few; at least one hundred and fifty earnest Christian men are needed to perform the work which is ready at our hands. May the Lord of the vineyard send forth skilled laborers to gather in His harvest!

An interesting feature of the work, this winter, is that among the colored soldiers. Schools, as well as religious meetings, are to be held for these, and the *Primer* and *First Reader* must precede the *Testament*. Arrangements have been made to organize schools throughout the colored corps, and teachers are already on the ground.

The "tabernacles," which are sent us by churches at the North, are worthy of notice. These are beautiful large tents, capable of holding four or five hundred persons. These, bearing the names given by the donors, are occupied as chapels, and a constant communication is kept up between the home Church and the army tabernacle.

Thus, hastily, have we sketched a few of the more prominent features of the Christian Commission work in the armies operating against Richmond during the year 1864.

The year has closed; its opportunities and privileges are ours no longer. As we look back through its months of strange experience, we can but wonder at the way in which the Lord has led us.

This year, for the first time during the war, a thorough plan of Christian effort and relief, embracing in its scope an entire army and the entire year, has been carried out with full success.

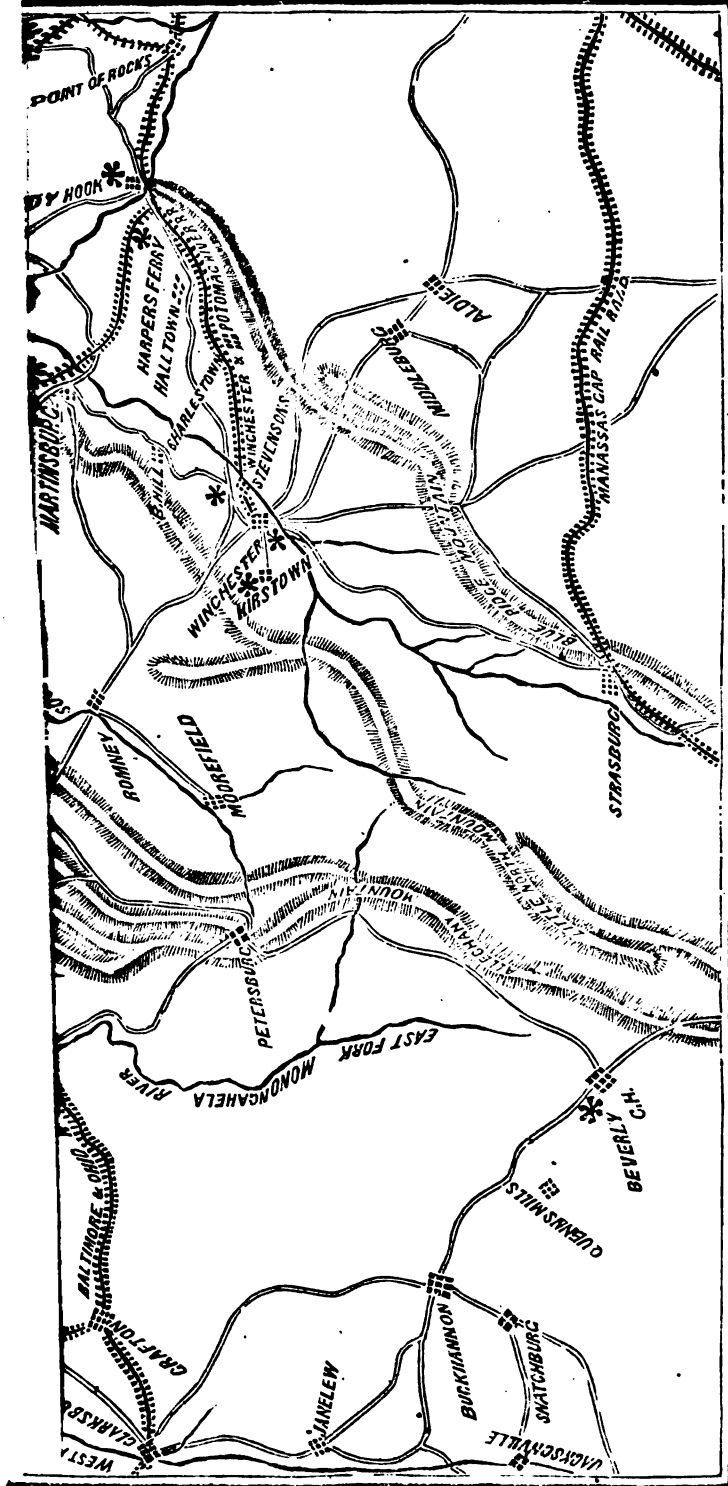
On marches, in sickness, in danger, in the camp, in the hospital, on the transport, on the field of battle, Christ has stood, in the person of His followers, relieving the sick, the lame, the blind, and preaching the gospel to the poor.

While, with grateful hearts, we rejoice, remembering this success which has followed our feeble efforts, let us ascribe to Him, our Lord, all honor and all praise.

Truly yours,

J. A. COLE.





BEVERLY.

CUMBERLAND.  
CLARESVILLE.

MARTINSBURG.  
KERNSTOWN.

WINCHESTER.  
STEVENSON'S STA.

SANDY HOOK.  
HARPER'S FERRY.

A \* Indicates the location of our Stations.

# ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Report of J. R. Miller, General Field Agent.

Office U. S. Christian Commission, }  
Harper's Ferry, Dec. 30th, 1864. }

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Christian Commission in this field, from the organization of the department, in September, till the close of the year. The impossibility of keeping full records during the hurried work of organizing, while an active campaign was in progress, will account for any deficiencies in the first part of my report.

I left City Point, Va., to assume direction of the work in the Shenandoah Valley, September 16th, and reached Sandy Hook, in Maryland, the 19th, the day of the great battle at Winchester.

Both difficulties and dangers attended the forwarding of supplies and delegates for the relief of the sufferers at Winchester. The railroad from Harper's Ferry to Winchester was destroyed. Guerrillas infested the country in search of plunder. We had to hire poor wagons and teams, until good ones could be purchased and sent to us. The difficulties were overcome, the dangers did not stop us. Our wagons, supplies and delegates were hastened forward, and reached the front in safety.

Arriving at Winchester, a room was secured, where the stores were deposited, while the wagons went back immediately for more supplies. In two days we again went forward with two wagon-loads of choicest hospital stores, and with a re-enforcement of ten delegates. This second supply I accompanied myself. I at once visited all the hospitals, and reported to all the different surgeons in charge that we had a band of workers, who had come to do their part in caring for the brave sufferers. In every instance the proffered aid was gratefully accepted. To many of these officers, as well as to their men, the Christian Commission was almost unknown. The 6th Corps had served long in the Potomac army, and, of course, had met the Commission in every camp and field since its first organization. But the 19th Corps had known but little of our operations previously to this campaign. And the 8th Corps, having been serving in the mountains of West Virginia mainly,

knew but little more of us. However, every facility was granted us, and with no ceremony, our ten delegates, fresh from home, and anxious to do all in their power to alleviate suffering, went to work. Since that time, we have had a great and uninterrupted work at Winchester.

The battle of September 19th was a most important one. Previously to the campaign that so auspiciously opened with this engagement, the valley of the Shenandoah had indeed been our "valley of humiliation." There we had suffered defeat after defeat, and the brave men who had fallen on many disastrous battle-fields, lay scattered over every portion of the valley. But the 19th was a new day in the history of our military operations in this section. Instead of constant and disastrous defeat, we now entered on a series of as brilliant successes as have marked the history of any army of similar power and strength since the war began. Morning saw the enemy, proud, defiant and confident,—night found him routed, reduced in numbers by many thousands, flying in disorder, leaving the machinery of war, and the *debris* of battle scattered all along his path. The victory was complete, overwhelming and destructive; and the news that went to the world thrilled loyal hearts every where with joy. But victory always costs something; always leaves sad wrecks behind; amid the shouts of the victors on the field are heard the groans and wails of the dying; and amid the rejoicings at home over the news of victory, there are always mingled the throbs of saddened hearts; for loved ones fall on every field of strife, and every battle sends sadness and desolation to many homes.

The battle of the 19th was bloody. Hundreds of brave men fell to rise no more, and several thousands were wounded. The sufferings for many days were very great. In addition to our own wounded, there were two thousand of the enemy's wounded left in our hands. These were collected into distinct hospitals, with their own surgeons and nurses; yet they demanded care at our hands, on the principle—"If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink." The great number of friends that these rebel wounded have in the city of Winchester and the scarcity of the friends of the Union made it certain that as far as help from citizens was concerned, the rebels would fare much better than our own men, and on this account I directed that the principal efforts of our delegates, at the first, should be on behalf of our own men. However, one delegate was appointed to visit the rebel hospitals

daily, to supply them with reading matter, Testaments, papers, &c., and in cases adjudged really needful, to supply also small quantities of hospital stores.

The scene presented after the battle, was truly a heart-rending one. Winchester was literally one vast hospital. All the churches and other public buildings were filled; while almost every private house had its quota of wounded and bleeding soldiers. There have been but few times since the war began, in which there was greater need of external relief. There was nothing left in the country; the Government supplies were all back; the nearest base was Harper's Ferry, over thirty miles distant; and the intervening country was overrun by guerrillas, so that nothing could go forward safely, unless under the protection of a strong military escort. I cannot pass over this period, without bearing testimony to the noble and self-sacrificing labors of the loyal ladies of Winchester. When they saw the brave defenders of the old flag, which they still so dearly loved, stricken down in the streets of their city, they at once entered on their work of mercy, and ceased not till all the brave men were made comfortable. They shared their last morsel with them; they washed, and dressed, and cheered the weary sufferers, and bent over the dying to catch their last whispered message to dear ones far away. There are a few names in Winchester, which will go down into history garlanded with honors, and coupled with deeds of heroism and magnanimity.

The world will never know the nature, value or importance of the work performed in the hospitals by our delegates. It was a quiet, unostentatious work of mercy. Entering on their labors there in a time of greatest suffering, they worked by day and by night among the wounded thousands, washing, dressing, feeding, praying with the dying, burying the dead, and calling upon the living to repent and be saved. It is now nearly three months and a half since the work began, but it is not yet ended. During this time, five hundred men have died in those hospitals; several thousands have been transferred to other hospitals; while several hundreds still remain.

As soon as the railroad was restored, Martinsburg became a place of great importance to our work. Almost every wagon train from the front brought down two, three or five hundred men on their way to the hospitals of Baltimore and other cities. During the first few weeks, these men were taken, as soon as they arrived, into



the churches and other public buildings, from the wagons, and there remained till the following afternoon. It is twenty-two miles from Winchester to Martinsburg. And over all this distance, in hard army wagons, over rough roads, with no beds, or even straw to lie upon, and with no rest, and nothing to eat by the way, these poor, mangled men had to travel. We were always apprized of their coming an hour or more before they began to arrive, and large camp-kettles full of water were placed over the fire, and soon forty or fifty gallons of tea were ready. Then, with tea, crackers, cheese, meats and fruits, our delegates hurried about from place to place, till all were fed. Then came the bathing, and washing, and dressing, and it was usually well-nigh morning before all was done; but after a night's hard labor our delegates have always felt amply repaid for their toil in the gratitude of many noble hearts. In the morning the same routine came again; and at noon the brave fellows were placed in the cars for another long, hard ride; and our last act was always to make them as comfortable as possible on their hard beds on the cars.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the noble ladies of Martinsburg, and their deeds of benevolence performed toward our suffering soldiers during the campaign. The many men who have from time to time lain in the hospitals of Martinsburg will always remember with gratitude the loyal people who so gladly and so freely shared with them the comforts and luxuries of their own homes. The "Ladies' Aid Society," represented by Mrs. Maxwell, has performed good service during the summer and autumn, laboring in connection with the Christian Commission. Under many difficulties and discouragements they have "done what they could."

During the campaign the twofold object of the Christian Commission has been kept steadily in view. While caring for the body, and laboring to alleviate bodily sufferings, we have aimed to lose no opportunity to speak a word for Jesus. We have always borne in mind that our soldiers are beings for immortality; and, in going from cot to cot, among thousands, our delegates have not failed to remind them, if but by a hastily-spoken word, that they have interests far higher than those of time. Prayer-meetings and other brief religious services have been regularly held in all our hospitals; and a quiet, but powerful, work of grace has been constantly moving forward.

As before stated, the only station of the Commission in operation, in the department, at the opening of the campaign, was the one at Sandy Hook. To-day we are represented at Sandy Hook, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Cumberland, Beverly, Stevenson's Station, Winchester, and at the front, four miles south of Winchester. At that time we had but two delegates in the field. During the campaign over eighty have been enrolled, who, with few exceptions, have labored faithfully and diligently in the service of our Master.

To render the work efficient and thorough, the following subdivisions have been made:

I. The first division embraces Sandy Hook, Harper's Ferry, and Martinsburg, with the troops adjacent on the several lines of railroad, under the immediate direction of the Agent at Harper's Ferry.

II. The second division embraces Stevenson's Station, Winchester, and the army in the field, under the superintendence of Rev. N. C. Brackett.

III. The third division embraces Cumberland, Clarysville, New Creek and Piedmont, under the superintendence of Rev. J. B. Poerner.

IV. The fourth division embraces Grafton, Clarksburg and points south to Beverly, under the superintendence of Rev. Edward Cooper, Chaplain 8th Ohio Cavalry. With this arrangement, it is hoped that the work, this winter, will be thorough and successful.

Every facility asked for has been cheerfully granted by the General commanding, and by the several post-commandants, making the work at every point a pleasant one.

The army in the field has been much reduced, of late, by the removal of the 6th and 8th Corps to other departments; yet still we have a wide and extended field, and abundant room and opportunity for the performance of a great work.

I enclose a map of this department (see page 80,) showing the location of the different stations. It will be seen the field is the much extended and stations widely separated.

Rev. N. C. Brackett has had immediate direction of the work at Winchester during the whole campaign, and has performed his duties with great satisfaction to all concerned. He has been appointed to a Field Agency, and will have direction of the entire work in my absence.

Our plans for the winter contemplate the erection of chapels in every camp, so that all may have an opportunity to hear the gos-

pel; the establishment of libraries in reach of all who desire to read; the organization of prayer-meetings; and the distribution of Testaments, papers, books, tracts, &c., every where. The field is ready and inviting, the harvest promises to be plenteous, and we ask for the reapers. Many thousands who now ask for the word of life, in one year hence will sleep silently beneath the sod. The time for work is now. We ask for grace to begin the new year with renewed zeal, and to enable us to do more in the future than in the past.

Very truly and respectfully, J. R. MILLER,  
*General Field Agent, M. M. Div.*

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### Kentucky Branch of the United States Christian Commission.

A review of the operations of the United States Christian Commission in Kentucky for the year 1864, furnishes abundant cause for thanksgiving. The Committee, on whom has devolved the management of its affairs, has found the work constantly growing on its hands, and has been pleased and encouraged with the tokens of God's favor, enjoyed at each successive step.

At first, a few merchants could accommodate the Commission in Louisville, with a little spare room in their places of business. Next it occupied two rooms of its own. Now it has use for a large store-room and offices, and a large dwelling to make a home for its delegates, working in Louisville and vicinity, and to entertain those going to and returning from the front. The ladies employed in the diet kitchens of the hospitals, also find here a home in their necessary journeyings. As the means and facilities at our command have increased with the widening field of our operations, we have been disposed, with earnest hearts and willing hands, to attempt great things for the good of souls and the glory of God; and to expect great things from God, in answer to prayer, as the result of faithful and persevering efforts.

The field of our operations has extended to the camps, barracks and hospitals of Louisville and vicinity, embracing Jeffersonvill

and New Albany in Indiana, with Frankfort, Lexington, Camp Nelson and points beyond, on the route to Knoxville, Tenn., and the numerous places to be guarded along the line of the Louisville and Nashville railroad. We have also done what we could on the various gunboats and transports that remained for a time near Louisville, or left it for the scenes of conflict; and, as incidental to our main work, we have been called on to do what we could for the suffering refugees from the South; as well as the rebel prisoners at the military prison in Louisville.

Wherever the soldiers of our army or the sailors of our navy have been engaged on duty, or confined as prisoners for their offences against the laws of the army and navy, our delegates have been permitted to go, carrying with them comforts for the body and instruction for the soul. Meetings for social devotion and the preaching of the glorious gospel of the blessed God, have been conducted nearly every night by the delegates, in No. 1 and Exchange Barracks, in addition to the ministrations of various kinds during the day.

Blessed and comforted by the kind ministrations of the delegates in hospitals, camps and barracks, large numbers of soldiers have also visited our rooms to receive religious counsel, get good reading and write letters to their friends. Often, every available facility has been used to accommodate them *all* with tables and stationery to write their letters, on which, too, we have put the necessary stamps for postage. Many a fond mother, loving wife, affectionate sister and endeared friend has had occasion to exclaim: "God bless the Christian Commission!" for those missives of interest from son, husband, brother or friend, written at our rooms and at other places, on sheets of paper headed with the picture of a carrier pigeon conveying a letter, and seeming to say, as it flies: "The U. S. Christian Commission sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

Early in the year, Chaplain W. W. Meech, who has most extensively aided the Commission in its operations from the first, was ordered from the hospital at Louisville to the charge of that at Bowling Green. He at once proposed to do a good work for the troops, on guard duty along the line of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, as often as he could spare the time from his duties in the hospitals, camps, barracks and military prison at that post. Besides sup-

plying parcels of religious reading to the squads and companies guarding the bridges and track of the road, he furnished a large number of papers and tracts to the troops going on the trains. This was truly doing the work of the Commission at railroad speed. Most of the guarded points are passed without stopping, and it required constant attention to know and improve the favored moment of passing a fort or stockade. The chaplain has often stood on the platform for miles, watching, with a roll of papers in hand, lest he should miss the opportunity of cheering a squad of these soldiers with our reading, and has felt amply repaid as he has seen how eagerly they ran to get the boon. At some of the stockades on the lower part of the road, the soldiers have put a board on a post, silently asking passengers to "DROP A PAPER." At one place they have printed, in large capitals, on the white side of a poncho or gum blanket, "PLEASE DROP PAPERS." As the train approaches, two of them hold up the request and, if need be, shake it to secure attention. The papers once thrown off, there is a race who will first get them, and then all gather around for the news and good reading they contain. About thirty points have been supplied by the chaplain, besides occasional parcels sent to places off the line of the road. It has been an interesting field of operation, and must have benefited not less than three thousand men at each distribution.

On the 12th of August, Major-General W. T. Sherman issued an order in regard to "deserters from the rebel army," and "refugees, male and females, escaping from the dangers of civil war at the South," in which he said, "Commanding officers at Cairo and Louisville will, through the agents of the Christian Commission or labor agencies, endeavor to put this class of people in the way of honest employment as much as possible."

The larger part of these refugees are women and children, and nearly all are in a deplorably destitute condition. Many of the women have been made widows by the desolations of the war, and many of the children have become orphans since they started from the sunny South. It has been a desideratum not only to find employment for those able to earn a support, but to provide homes for the children, where they will be well cared for. A good work has been done in this direction by the Rev. W. S. Sedgwick, who has held religious services with them at the place provided for their reception by the Government, near the depot, and by the kindest

ministrations gained their confidence and affection. Being extensively known as a Sunday-school missionary, he has received contributions from various sources for this special object to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars, which he has expended for special relief to the suffering, burying many who have died, and sending several hundred of these poor homeless ones to Christian families.

A new feature in the operations of the Christian Commission since our last annual report, calls for special mention. The experience of our hospitals in treating patients suffering from dangerous wounds, amputations and those diseases which have proved most fatal, has shown the great value of the most careful nursing and suitably prepared diet. To meet this want more fully than it had been hitherto supplied, to secure as nearly as possible the home attentions of a wife, mother or sister to those most needing their care, the Christian Commission has taken charge of the *special diet kitchens* in most of the U. S. General Hospitals, with the consent and under the direction of the surgeons in charge, adding cooking utensils and supplies to those already provided by the Government. The ladies engaged in superintending the cooking in these kitchens, are earnest, cultivated, Christian women, acting under the general direction of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, with her head-quarters at Louisville. In those hospitals of our field so supplied, the best results have been secured in the most satisfactory manner. The surgeon in charge of one of our large hospitals remarked of the work of these ladies: "I feel now when we have a very sick patient, we have every means to raise him up, for in many cases the right kind of food, properly prepared, is more important than medicine." Miss Florence Nightingale, after her experience in caring for sick and wounded soldiers, said, "Thousands of patients are annually starved in the midst of plenty, from want of attention to the ways which alone make it possible for them to take food."

The supplies furnished by the Christian Commission, go directly into the hands of the ladies employed in the diet kitchens, and reach the sick after being prepared in the best possible manner. The ladies of the Commission not only prepare the food, but visit the patients in their wards; converse with them; cheer them with tenderest sympathy; read to them; write letters for them often; inquire how they relish the food prepared, that they may know just how to suit their various and varying appetites; and what is often better than being so useful in their restoration to health and strength of body,

are enabled to lead them to "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," as the all-healing Physician.

The most harmonious relations exist between the surgeons and the Commission. They bear a uniform testimony to the value and importance of these kitchens, and the services of the Christian ladies employed.

On Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, the friends of the soldiers repeated their kind demonstrations of last year, in providing such entertainment as demonstrated their care and sympathy for the noble defenders of our Union. Long may God's blessing rest on both the donors and recipients.

It affords us great pleasure to acknowledge our obligations to the editorial corps for the use of their columns, and the railroad, steamboat, ferry and express companies connected with the field of our operations, for the many favors received from them in the transportation of our delegates and stores. It has been said that corporations have no souls, but we thank them all for doing so much to prove the contrary, and hope for the continuance of their favors for the year to come.

For the Committee.

ISAAC RUSSELL,  
*Secretary.*

*Louisville, Ky., Dec. 31st, 1864.*

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## ARMIES OF THE CUMBERLAND, OHIO AND TENNESSEE.

**Report of Rev. Edward P. Smith, General Field Agent.**

By the movements of our forces in Nov. 1863, resulting in the victory at Chattanooga and the relief of Knoxville, the Armies of the Tennessee and the Ohio were brought within the field of the Christian Commission for the Army of the Cumberland. Though thus greatly enlarged, our work in its main features has not changed from that of last year.

Three hundred delegates have reported for service, mostly from Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana. Their labors have been directed by seven permanent agents who have been in charge of stations, or have followed with the army in the summer campaign.

Keeping to the fundamental idea of our field work, to give personal help and care to men in any trouble, and at the same time to avoid all possible incumbrance to military operations, we have opened stations as our lines have been extended, and endeavored to keep up with the main body of the army.

We have had, at all our stations, except during the interruptions of communication, a good supply and variety of religious reading, subject to the orders of chaplains, and for distribution by the delegates. We have been able, through the co-operation of chaplains, to send supplies of reading to detached troops and to brigades beyond the reach of our delegate work.

Through the donations of the American Bible Society, we have furnished Testaments and portions of Scripture to all who needed them in the entire army, and to many of those who had lost their knapsacks in battle we gave two and three times.

At the request of Maj. Gen. Thomas, we adopted the plan, inaugurated by Chaplain Thomas, of supplying the army with all the better class of magazine literature. The publishers of the Eclectic, Atlantic, Harpers', the Continental, and the U. S. Service Magazines, furnished them to us at half price. Adams' Express Co. gave free freight, and we furnished them to soldiers and officers at the publishers' price. Thirty-five thousand were thus brought to men who were accustomed to read and think, most of whom would have sought to satiate their appetite for reading on the trash of novelettes which is sold so largely and at such exorbitant prices through all our camps. I am confident that this part of our work has been highly prized by a class of persons who, in other respects, had but little personal need of help from the Commission.

We have also during the past year adopted Chaplain Thomas' plan for procuring hospital libraries. From his carefully selected catalogue, arranged according to publishers, we have purchased, at greatly reduced rates, choice books, and put them into neat cases furnished by Government for many hospitals. The libraries have brought a wider range and higher character of literature within the reach of men waiting to get well, and suffering from the tedium of hospital life.

We have kept well to our idea of being the channel of communication between the soldier and his home. At our stations we have kept the weekly, state and county papers, on file in a free reading room, and have invited men to a free writing table, and set forth



inducements for writing home, paying postage whenever the soldier desired it. We have in this way sent post-paid from our tables one hundred thousand home letters. We have purchased postage stamps for the accommodation of men in the field, who otherwise could not get them, not unfrequently using capital of a thousand dollars, set apart for this purpose, two or three times in a week. We have distributed, in hospitals and camps, paper and envelopes for a million and a half of letters bound homeward, offering them freely to any man who desired or would agree to write to his friends. I deem it a reasonable statement that at least half, and I think two-thirds, of the letters written on our paper would not have been written at all, but for the facilities we offered. On marches and after battles it has been our constant endeavor to gather up the letters of soldiers and take them to the first mail. In all our delegates' ministrations, it has been a special duty to ask permission of sick and wounded men to write to their friends at home, as much for the sake of friends as for the soldier; and in time of battle to spare no pains to give immediate and accurate information of the wounded and dead whom we find, to those who wait for tidings; and to urge those who have come out unharmed, to relieve their friends by filling on the spot the sheet of paper which we offer. In the two days' fighting before Nashville and the four days succeeding, in which we ministered to our sick and wounded recaptured at Franklin, the delegates of the Nashville station wrote one thousand letters as extra duty, after laboring from eight to sixteen hours a day with the suffering and dying. The acknowledgments to these letters that are still coming in from relieved and broken hearts all over the northwest, tell how much this kind of effort is worth, both to the soldier and his home.

We have tried to hold our distribution of religious reading as a means of our religious work, and not the work itself; keeping still to our idea of being a personal agency to individuals for their conversion from sin and encouragement in all that is good. It has been our constant aim, by hospital cot, on car and steamboat, in camps and chapel tents, to hold up the Saviour and invite men to learn of Him. Our meetings take this character; always open to soldiers for an expression of feeling and for committal to duty. Rarely have we opened a preaching place which has not been filled at once, and as rarely, have we had two or three successive meetings in a place, without decided expressions of desire to be converted.

# REPORT OF THE ST. LOUIS BRANCH

OF THE

U. S. Christian Commission, for 1865.

This office was made, in the early part of the year, the base of supplies, and the distributing office of the western field of the Christian Commission, which embraces that vast portion of the Mississippi Valley, known as the Military Departments of Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Through this office have been forwarded all the supplies, after being assorted and re-packed, to the armies in this field, from the Central Office in Philadelphia, and the Branch Offices at Chicago, Peoria, Detroit, and Milwaukee. One year ago, one person performed all the labor in the office; six months ago, two could attend to it; but now the business has so rapidly increased, that six persons are kept busily employed in the work of receiving, packing, and forwarding the supplies for the soldiers.

At the beginning of the year, there were only two agencies, or stations, in active operation in this field—Memphis and Vicksburg. In February, agencies were established at Cairo, Ill., and Little Rock, Ark.; in April, at Natchez, Miss., and Leavenworth, Kan.; in September, at Paducah, Ky., and Rolla, Mo.; and in November, at Macon City, Mo., Columbus, Ky., and Benton Barrack, near St. Louis, making twelve stations, at which there are Christian Commission rooms opened for depositories of reading matter and stores, for soldiers' prayer-meetings, with accommodations for reading and writing, and agents to distribute the supplies, and do all they can for the benefit, both temporal and spiritual, of the soldiers.

Arrangements have been made with army chaplains, and others, at many other places, too small, or with too few soldiers, to justify opening rooms. Of these places, we mention Jefferson City, St. Joseph, Warrensburg and Cape Girardeau, Mo.; Helena, Brownsville, Pine Bluff, and Mouth of White River Landing, Ark.; Morgansia Bend, La.; and Omaha, Nebraska Territory. An agent is regularly employed to travel from Leavenworth to Fort Smith, and supply the soldiers at the military posts between those places.

Through the kindness of J. R. Brown, Esq., Agent of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at Leavenworth, Kan., our supplies are regularly forwarded with those of that Commission, to our Agent, and the soldiers at all the frontier posts above mentioned, and to the forts in Western Kansas, in Colorado, and New Mexico. An agent is also employed in supplying from Rolla, Mo., the military posts in South-western Missouri, and in North-western Arkansas. Our aim is to reach every soldier in the field with the Word of Life, with regular weekly religious and secular papers, letter paper, envelopes, writing material, and such articles of clothing, comfort, and cheer, as the soldiers' friends at home place at our disposal, or we can purchase with the means furnished for that purpose.

From all these agencies and places reached by the distributions and labors of the Commission, most encouraging accounts are continually received of great good being done by these efforts, and of the soldiers' grateful appreciation of them.

For our home work in the numerous hospitals in and near this city, we have found the labors of permanently employed female delegates the most economical, effectual, and successful. Of these we have six—highly recommended, carefully selected, earnest Christian women—who devote their time to the glorious work of pointing to Jesus, the sick and the well, the dying and the convalescent. Many a "dear boy in blue," who went into the army and into the hospital, prayerless and wicked, has, we have the best of reasons to believe, gone home to Jesus, through the instrumentality of the bedside prayers and loving words of these ladies.

From a fair held at Muscatine, Iowa, we received \$10,000 in money, and 960 sacks (1,920 bushels) potatoes; 489 sacks (998 bushels) onions; 20 barrels crackers; 22 barrels and kegs pickles; 6 barrels flour; 8 boxes clothing, linens, &c.; 50 boxes canned, dried, and preserved fruits; 4 barrels do.; besides other articles.

From another fair, held at Burlington, Iowa, we received \$2,500 in money, and 40 barrels pickles, onions, and dried apples; 9 boxes clothing, linen, bandages, &c.; 49 boxes and kegs canned fruit and apple batter, with several boxes books.

From the Soldiers' Aid Society, of Iowa City, Iowa, we received 120 cans gooseberries; 150 cans blackberries; 100 cans currant jam; 189 cans tomatoes; 12 kegs and barrels pickles; 11 boxes hospital clothing, linen, bandages, &c.

From Keokuk, Davenport, Oskaloosa, Camanche, and other places

in Iowa, of noble-hearted, liberal people, and true and brave soldiers, we received valuable and timely donations. Southern and Central Iowa contributed to our funds and stores, more than one-half our entire receipts for the year.

Thousands of dollars in money, and many stores, were added to our fund and stock, by the *Union Leagues of Loyal Women of America*, of Illinois. A system of regular contributions and continued efforts in gathering and furnishing stores for the cause of the Christian Commission, was introduced in these Leagues early in the summer, and by it we have had a continual, steady and considerable income. For the introduction of this system, the Commission are mainly indebted to B. H. Mills, Esq., of Upper Alton, Ill., President of the League, and editor of the "Good Templar," who gave many columns of his paper to our cause, and through it gave the League much information of the plans, workings and benefits of the Commission.

By these liberal donations, this steady income from the Union Leagues, the gifts of twenties, tens, fives, the widows' mites and the gifts of many children, this Branch was enabled, during the year, to pay the expenses of fifty-three delegates for the usual term of service; open and furnish the offices and rooms of ten stations; furnish homes for the agent and delegates in the work at five of the stations; purchase nearly four thousand dollars' worth of supplies for the *Special Diet Kitchens* connected with the military hospitals at Memphis; over five thousand dollars' worth of the same for hospital, field, and home distribution; pay nearly all the necessary expenses of the whole field; and purchase for distribution the following numbers of publications:

Copies of Scriptures.....	846
“ Psalm and Hymn Books.....	6,063
“ Soldiers' Knapsack Books.....	46,285
“ School Books for Soldiers.....	6,670
“ Bound Volumes, Library and other Books	6,592
“ Magazines and Pamphlets.....	13,695
“ Weekly Religious and Secular Papers....	268,424
Pages of Tracts .....	306,494
Quires Letter and Note Paper .....	8,420
Envelopes.....	186,000

The following are some of the distributions of the donations to, and the purchase of, this Branch, the larger part being donations:

Shirts.....	2,733	Dried Fruit, lbs.....	4,194
Drawers, pairs.....	1,626	Cans " .....	2,690
Socks, " .....	1,707	Apples, bbls.....	110
Pants, " .....	34	Butter, lbs.....	2,658
Shoes, " .....	25	Potatoes, bushels.....	2,200
Slippers, " .....	350	Onions, " .....	1,600
Handkerchiefs.....	1,805	Pickles, bbls.....	33
Towels.....	1,190	" kegs and jars.....	106
Housewives.....	3,521	Eggs, doz.....	1,404
Bandages.....	3,000	Crackers, lbs.....	1,310
Pillows.....	495	Coffee, Tea, and Sugar, lbs.....	1,200
Pillow Cases.....		1,030	

The following are some items of the total amounts of distribution for the year, through this, as a distributing office:

Bibles .....	5,092
Testaments .....	72,303
Hymn Books.....	99,751
Knapsack Books.....	1,035,284
Pages of Tracts.....	1,479,022
Newspapers.....	632,807
Quires Paper, Letter and Note.....	10,500
Envelopes .....	292,250
Shirts.....	3,335
Drawers, pairs.....	2,274
Socks .....	3,331
Blackberry Cordials and Wines—Bottles.....	2,542
Condensed Milk—Cans.....	1,765
Handkerchiefs.....	2,805

Our receipts of money from all sources during the year were \$49,788 33; expenditures, \$45,724 76.

The value of the donated stores, estimated, \$16,695 00; value of the donated publications, \$2,500.

In response to the call for New Year's Gift Camp Libraries, the Western Sanitary Commission presented this Commission with *thirty* libraries, with cases, of fifty books each. We are indebted to this Sanitary Commission for many favors, and very gladly do we here record a very pleasant and most cordial co-operation between these two sisters of charity.

The Press of this city very generously and materially assisted us by free advertising and editorials, space for many columns of letters, circulars and statements, and several thousand copies of daily papers for distribution to the soldiers.

The Railroads leading from this city have done a great part in this work—giving free transportation in nearly every instance to the agents and delegates of the Commission, and carrying stores to us free of charge. It is due that the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad be specially mentioned, which carried delegates nearly every week of the year, and always *free*, when application was made at the proper offices. That Road has also carried large amounts of freight free. The Terre Haute and St. Louis Railroad has carried free of charge all our supplies of reading from the Central Office. The Pacific Railroad carried our supplies free on its *Passenger trains*, when, during the great raid of Price and his band in this State, and while the Government was fully using its freighting capacity, we could not in any other way have supplied the army, pursuing and driving out the enemy, with the many articles of comfort and cheer our corps of delegates, under the direction of Rev. S. Wells, Field Agent, distributed to the brave defenders of our State.

Steamboats and Steamboat Companies have also done a large share in our great work for the Master, having carried many of our delegates *free*, and only receiving from some such a part of the usual fare as would remunerate for the meals taken on the boats. Of these the Memphis & St. Louis Packet Co., the Ables' Line and the Atlantic & Mississippi Steamboat Company have been the largest benefactors. We have not room to mention all one would be glad to, but would state that all the steamboat officers applied to have very kindly and generously aided.

We enter upon the New Year full of hope and encouragement for great good, trusting in the great Father of Light and Wisdom for blessings and success.

## MISSISSIPPI FIELD.

The facts of the year from this field, given and reported by the Missionary Field Agent and the Business Field Agent respectively, are only extended extracts from their more elaborate reports, published in the *Daily Memphis Argus*, as a "New Year's Christian Commission Supplement."

### REPORT OF K. A. BURNELL, MISSIONARY FIELD AGENT.

#### Rooms at Memphis—Daily Service.

More than three hundred and fifty days the service has been held, with an average attendance of thirty, making an aggregate of ten thousand five hundred, of whom we judge that fully seven thousand have been different persons. We also judge that fully four times this number have been visitors at the rooms during other hours of the day, writing letters, reading books and papers, receiving donations, or in other ways coming under the cheerful and heart-stimulating atmosphere of the rooms.

This being true, thirty thousand soldiers and more have been directly benefited for this and the life to come, by their presence in our loved rooms. Over twelve thousand letters have been written within the rooms.

Our force at this post during the year has averaged between three and four delegates, and two lady missionaries, with local agent. At Vicksburg, two delegates, local agent and two lady missionaries, the latter introduced in November last; at Natchez, local agent and one delegate; at Little Rock, local agent and one delegate; at Duvall's Bluff, local agent and one missionary; at Columbus, local agent for four months; at Paducah, local agent and one delegate for four months. An average of seven delegates, three lady missionaries and three local agents.

#### General Sherman's Meridian Expedition.

Sherman's expedition left here on the 28th of January, and it was my privilege to join it. The morning was balmy as a Northern

April. The signal or flag-steamer backed out from the levee at 10 A. M., and one by one, in their order, followed the fleet bearing the 10,000 brave men of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Corps. It was my privilege to be the guest of that Christian soldier, Colonel R. M. Moore, One Hundred and Seventeenth Illinois. On our steamer was the One Hundred and Seventeenth and an Indiana battery. You, that have never travelled on a Government transport, with from 700 to 1500 men on board; with horses, wagons, guns and caissons, ammunition and camp and garrison equipage on lower deck; with its complement of men, stowed away on the boxes, piles of wood and ammunition; with ears well-nigh deafened by the unearthly braying of the mules and clatter of machinery; with two hundred men to cook at a box-stove, or sit in their sleeping places and eat their hard-tack and raw bacon;—you, that have not seen and felt such a condition of things, are but poorly prepared to understand the feelings of one, who, in Jesu's name, spends, hour after hour and day after day, in endeavors to benefit the men.

As the fleet passed down the river, we stood on the hurricane-deck of our steamer, and sung, "All hail, the power of Jesu's name," listened to a short address, and the interview was closed with prayer. A few days since, an enlisted man of the One Hundred and Seventeenth said to me, at Cairo: "I shall never forget that meeting on the hurricane-deck of the Sioux City. As you led in prayer, with uncovered head, the clouds separated, and the bright sun shone most beautifully upon the scene."

In two days we were safe in Vicksburg. In scores of steamboat trips on the Mississippi and most of its navigable tributaries, I have never enjoyed a more pleasant one. Of it can be said what I can say of no other, there was no card-playing in the cabin, and but very little among the men. The influence of the Christian Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel of that regiment was very evident.

### Room and Work at Vicksburg.

Sherman's command went on the Meridian Expedition; meanwhile I stayed at Vicksburg. The basement of the Presbyterian Church, occupied as rooms for the Christian Commission, had never been equipped with shelving, tables and other requisites, but in a few days it was complete. At the post were about six thousand



men. A change in local agents was made, and three delegates were present during my stay of six weeks. The influence of the daily prayer-meeting, commenced on my arrival, was much felt, and some found Christ. Some of the delegates were most excellent men, working with continuous devotion. The influence of the Commission was direct, wide-felt and appreciated. The open-air meetings, the good Samaritan work in hospitals, the visits to the tents, to the transports and packets with soldiers, as they stopped at the levee, going below or coming up, the gunboats, stationed or passing, was most cheering and heart-strengthening. The visits in the prison and the meetings with the prisoners were profitable. Mrs. Gov. Harvey, so favorably known in the army, accompanied me, one Sabbath, to the services in two prisons.

### The Red River Expedition.

The Red River Expedition left Vicksburg March 10th; and, again the guest of Colonel R. M. Moore, I made one of the ten thousand. Our nineteen transports and ten thousand men were joined at the mouth of Red River by twenty-three iron-clads, rams, monitors, tin-clads and tugs, under Admiral Porter.

As we ascended the serpentine and narrow Red River, with an advance and rear-guard of gunboats, the sight was beautiful in the extreme. The land trip across from the Atchafalaya to Fort de Russey, was made in a day and a night, and the capture effected after a fight of an hour and a half. There are some men who will long remember that night's march, and what was said to them of that *other soldier's life*.

Taking our transports again at the fort, we arrived in safety at Alexandria, where we were re-enforced by General Banks, after spending ten days. Immediately after our arrival, we took possession of a church building, in the name of Almighty God and President Lincoln, and at once commenced a daily service. The building was well filled the first day, and walls previously resounding to treason, now echoed and re-echoed to a true patriotism and a hearty Christian loyalty.

The ten days at Alexandria are each precious in memory. The open-air meetings, the squad and tent gatherings and the putting in the hands of the men good reading at such a time, were duly appreciated.

### Navy Work.

On the morning of the 30th of March we moved out of Alexandria.

A day or two later, I was invited on board the gunboat Carondelet, by Lieut. Com. Mitchel, to be the guest of the cabin as long as I desired. I stood by the captain as the sailors gathered around to hear concerning the port of eternal peace. After eight bells, and "all must turn in," I stood by the swinging hammocks, and read to them from the Book of Books, concerning God's wonderful love to them.

It was most cheering, after the week's stay, to be cordially invited to return and make the iron-clad my home at any time. Having occasion to return to tarry for a night, it was more than cheering to have an official come to my side after I had retired, and, with tremulous voice and deeply moved heart, assure me of his determination to set all sail, take careful soundings, keep close eye upon his compass, and, through Christ, cast anchor on the other side.

Work for Christ on our gunboats, and among our sailors generally, is a very peculiar work; and, with any other than Christian determination to overcome obstacles, it might be termed difficult. The friends at home have done nobly in enabling the Commission to put libraries upon most of the fifty or more gunboats on the Mississippi; and the Peoria Committee to send from Cairo a well-selected, various and generous package of religious reading every month for each vessel. This entire Mississippi squadron has a single chaplain, and he stationed at Cairo, on the receiving-ship.

The opportunity to hold meetings on the different kinds of vessels, on the gun and berth-decks, with Parrott, Dahlgren and Columbiad, upon which to rest my Bible, to talk with the men of every grade and age, from the girlish cabin-boy of twelve summers to the gray-headed and ocean-hardened sailor of three-score; from the boatswain, and the petty officer, to the Admiral, was larger on the Red River Expedition than it has ever been on any previous expedition.

From the Admiral down, I was treated with brotherly consideration. Every ten boats, at least, should have one self-forgetting, untiring Christian worker; a man of cordiality, of gentleness, of determination to know no failure; one who can grace the table of

the "man-of-war's cabin," or, with equal care, can sit on the oaken floor or iron plating, and make Jack feel that he is one of their number, who deeply longs to have him ship for everlasting life.

### Grand Ecore Meetings.

The meetings at Grand Ecore, both brigade, regimental and squad, with personal endeavor, were instructive and promising, but for the fruitage we wait the eternal revelation.

### Battle-field Work.

Friday afternoon, 8th of April, cannonading in our advance grew louder, and drew nearer before sunset.

Commanders wore thoughtful faces, and enlisted men looked anxiously. The sun dropped below Louisiana sugar-fields as quietly as ever. Stragglers, parts of companies and regiments, soon entered our camp, and, with deep sadness, we learned that the portions of the Thirteenth and Nineteenth Corps constituting our advance, under General Banks, had been most fearfully repulsed. My place on mother earth, at brigade headquarters, was by the side of Colonel Moore. That night I occupied it, but not to sleep. The encouraged and exasperated rebels, the defeated Federals, the bloody work of the next day, and the question, had I been faithful to all? many of whom to-morrow sleep in death, were thoughts quite sufficient to prevent sleep. At 2, A. M., all were aroused, hasty breakfast taken, and we lay upon our guns waiting. That waiting was good time for Christian Commission working. The personal interviews with commissioned and enlisted men were solemn, and I do not believe they will be forgotten. That colonels go prayerfully into battle in some cases, I know; for the pleading tones of one that morning I was privileged to hear. At the close of the conflict, he held me by the hand, and, with misty eyes, said, "*I never felt more the power of prayer than in this fight.*" Till two o'clock the next morning, I was on the field, administering to the wounded, and removing them to the extemporized hospitals. What an Ohio soldier said to me, as he was closing his eyes in death, were it all, would have been precious cheer for the toil of the trip. I took to my blanket at two o'clock in the morning. At four P. M., the order came to retreat.

### **The Defeat and Retreat.**

The sun rose never more beautifully, and never shone upon a moving column of more triumphant or more deeply disappointed heroes. If it is womanly for men to weep, then men well-nigh invincible are womanly, for many a man wept that Sabbath (10th April) even as in childhood.

Eight days at Grand Ecore, on the retreat, before the rebels could harass us, gave fine opportunity for practical sympathy in carrying guns, doing good Samaritan work, and pointing men to Jesus. At Alexandria we found two delegates of the New York branch of the Christian Commission, doing good service among the many sufferers.

### **May in New Orleans.**

The trip to New Orleans on the transport, among the wounded, was precious in work and incident. At New Orleans, work abounds. With such a co-laborer as the untiring R. K. Diossy, of the New York branch, the local agent at that post, with an every day attendance upon the Carondelet Street daily service, with meetings in cotton presses, the military and city prisons, at the parole camp on Lake Pontchartrain, and in the suburbs of the city in every direction, and the privilege of co-operating with the earnest few of the Young Men's Christian Commission in engaging a room under the St. Charles Hotel as their future religious home, the month of May was not in vain. Prayer has gone up from that room, under the St. Charles Hotel, every day since.

### **Vicksburg and Memphis.**

Coming up the river, I passed a few days at Vicksburg, and was gladdened to find the rooms, the religious reading, and the daily service accomplishing much positive good.

Arriving at Memphis, after four and a half months of absence, *trying to do a little*, it was good indeed to receive the Christian greeting that my co-laborers know how to extend.

The one hundred days' men arrived; and the fighting back of Memphis was a new order of things. The worn and torn Red River men were to be cared for, clothes for the body and salvation for the soul were to be offered. The wounded from Guntown poured

in upon us, and delegates, agents, and lady workers had hearts and hands full.

### **Little Rock and Duvall's Bluff.**

Late in June I left for Little Rock and Arkansas. On the White River we were detained by the fighting, and received the wounded on board our transport. Two delegates were with me, and we found much to do, and with gladness did what we could. I passed nearly four weeks at Little Rock and Duvall's Bluff. Mr. C. C. Thayer, our esteemed local agent, was obliged to leave on a sick furlough. The heat was extreme, and sickness sadly abundant. Every thing was to be done for body and for soul. Three delegates were on duty at the time. The 18th of July we had occupied these rooms one year, and the anniversary was to be marked. During the week it was held with all its attendant anxieties. The Sabbath following I had, as on several previous Sabbaths, seven or eight open air meetings. I did not think of how much I could do, and had then, as still, often said, "O Lord, keep me from making mistakes."

The re-action came, but not till the morning of my departure. For eight days it was not to me that the promise applied, "He giveth his beloved sleep."

### **Division of Labor.**

On my arrival in St. Louis, 2d August, sick and worn, our considerate, brotherly and loving Committee said, in such a field and so large a department, it is too much to ask one man to meet faithfully the duties of General Field Agent. A division was cordially made, assigning to Rev. F. G. Ensign the Business Field Agency.

### **A Working Home Trip for Rest.**

The trip to St. Louis was good, the few days there with Christian friends were strengthening to body and soul. Four weeks of Wisconsin air were better than medicine; another three, in holding Christian Commission meetings, strengthened the body, and fed the soul; another three, hastening to and returning from New England for a review of youthful associations, with an average of a daily

public meeting, found me in St. Louis, October 27. Early November, again in the field.

### REPORT OF REV. F. G. ENSIGN, BUSINESS FIELD AGENT.

The circle of another year is completed—seed-time and harvest have come and gone, and the gathered grain is safe in the garner.

One year ago to-day, there were but two branch offices of the Christian Commission from Cairo to Natchez, including the Department of Arkansas. At Memphis and Vicksburg these offices were located. At the former place there was a daily prayer meeting, the only one in the whole department.

In February the office at Little Rock was opened, and C. C. Thayer was appointed Local Agent, and his work has been most precious and profitable. The commanding General has extended every facility asked, and the work promises, with present facilities, more hopeful results in the future than have been realized in the past.

An office was opened at Natchez last April, Rev. Arza Brown, Agent. The commanding General kindly gave the Commission a pleasant house, and extended to us many favors, which have all been re-conferred upon the brave soldiers at that post.

Brother Brown is the patriarch of the department, being nearly seventy years old, yet no man has a younger or more loving heart. Soldiers and officers respect, honor, and love him.

The office at Vicksburg was opened soon after the surrender of the city to General Grant, but has not been what it should have been. A permanent agent has at length been secured, and the interest is widening and deepening.

Duvall's Bluff was visited in September, and an office and daily prayer meeting opened; and for several weeks this work was most precious, and promised a rich harvest. Sickness deprived us of the labors of Rev. Mr. Mattice; and for a few weeks the post was left vacant, until the arrival of Mr. E. C. Sackett, the present agent, who is erecting a building for the reading-room, in which he has the co-operation and aid of General Andrews, and the Post Quartermaster, both of whom have manifested a lively interest in this work of Christ for our soldiers from the first.

In February an office was opened at Cairo, than which there is not a more important point in the Western Department. Thou-

sands of soldiers pass and re-pass there, and abundant opportunities are given active Christian men to work for them and for Christ. The Commission have erected a large building for reading and store-room, and are using every effort to reach all soldiers and sailors passing, or at all accessible to that office. N. C. McClure has recently been appointed agent, and comes to the work with a large army experience.

In September, an office was opened at Paducah. Wm. W. Kennedy was appointed agent. Some good results have been realized from the work.

Columbus is in charge of Rev. J. S. Orange, Superintendent Soldiers' Home, who most happily unites the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, being the joint agent of the two, and his labor is greatly blest of God.

The distributions of reading has been as follows:—

Memphis, Tenn.,	Scriptures.....	28,618
“ “	Hymns.....	12,229
“ “	Soldiers' books.....	94,612
“ “	Pages tracts.....	559,764
“ “	Papers.....	178,398
“ “	Pamphlets.....	5,595
“ “	Bound volumes.....	2,611
Natchez, Miss.,	Scriptures.....	1,528
“ “	Hymns.....	487
“ “	Soldiers' books.....	18,985
“ “	Bound volume.....	369
“ “	Pages tracts.....	36,135
“ “	Papers.....	43,760
“ “	Pamphlets.....	101
Little Rock, Ark.,	Scriptures.....	4,581
“ “	Hymns.....	2,713
“ “	Soldiers' books.....	6,786
“ “	Bound volumes.....	440
“ “	Pages tracts.....	229,528
“ “	Papers.....	69,771
“ “	Pamphlets.....	662

Reports from other stations have not been received; but from this partial report some idea can be gained of the amount of work accomplished.

Twelve hundred religious services have been held at this post,

and in many of them there have been most direct fruits of the labors of the delegates of the Commission. Over three thousand religious meetings have been held in the department; and go where you will in this army, you will hear of the gracious results. If there has been any field of Christian effort upon which God has set his seal, this army work certainly bears most clear and unmistakable evidence of such Divine recognition.

The most striking illustration of this was seen in the Marine Brigade at Vicksburg, a few weeks ago. They had been neglected for some time, and, like many others, had become very profane and reckless, so much so, that some of their officers felt that there could be but little hope of reaching them. But as soon as they were visited, and supplied with reading, and directed to Christ, they began to think, and to pray, and in a few days there was an entire change in the moral sentiment of the regiment, and the same officers remarked, that they believed every man in the regiment was thinking of "these things."

Major-General Washburn has extended many favors to the Commission, thus enabling us to do more for the men, and do it more efficiently. The department and depot quartermasters have kindly extended such favors as were consistent with existing orders, for which they have the gratitude of the agents and delegates of the Commission, and of those aiding and being aided by its benevolence.

With the experience of the past, the Commission enter upon the new year with gathered facilities and hopeful promise, with the assurance of accomplishing more, and witnessing more precious results.

## STATION WORK AT LITTLE ROCK.

BY O. C. THAYER, AGENT.

Arrived at Little Rock on the 26th of January, 1864. Major General Steele received me kindly and promised me every facility, "not inconsistent with the public service."

I called on Capt. B——, in company with G. M. Wyeth, Agent W. Sanitary Commission, who was anxious that I should occupy one-half of his building, and at once procured an assignment of the same, and thereby united under the same roof the two "Sisters of Charity." The condition of the rooms was any thing



but inviting, resembling, in fact, a secesh boarding-house, for which purpose it had been used more than a dwelling for white folks. But choosing appropriate tools, and pulling off coat and rolling up sleeves, I erected two large cases for books, tracts, periodicals, &c., arranged two file desks for the leading religious and secular newspapers, procured a large black Walnut case for library, also an office desk, writing tables, benches and other convenient and necessary articles, and all without a dime's expense, except the office desk.

On the 1st of February following, the Rooms of the Commission were opened and solemnly dedicated to the service of Almighty God. Sometimes soldiers would enter hesitatingly, and stand aloof, like suspicious chickens in a strange farm-yard, wondering what it could all mean, but never doubting that it was intended to win from them their hard-earned "greenbacks."

But presently on came a large stock of choice reading matter—books, papers, tracts; also paper, envelopes, pens, ink, &c. When I said, "Come in, soldiers, make yourselves at home; every thing here is gratuitous," they would ask in astonishment, "How is this?" Pointing to our card, I would answer, "This is the Christian Commission. Your friends at home procured these things and sent them to you. They are free to you as the Gospel—'without money and without price.'" Tears fell from the eyes of some as home and its endearments were remembered; one shouted, "Bully for the Christian Commission," another, "Bully for those who support it."

### **Distribution and Expansion.**

These glad tidings, like a little leaven, commenced spreading throughout the Department, and soon a lively interest became manifest, and this interest has since continued to increase.

Besides large quantities of reading, I have distributed in hospitals, a large number of Charts, Almanacs, Silent Comforters, Words of Life, Words for the Heart, &c. Have also issued to hospitals, shirts, sheets, pillow-slips, towels, handkerchiefs, socks, and have put into the hands of our sick and wounded heroes many luxuries; have furnished paper, envelopes, pens, ink, and often stamps to those who write in our rooms; have furnished the same to hospitals, and often written letters to dear ones at home for our sick and wounded soldiers, talked to them of Jesus, and, if dying, commended them to Him in prayer.

### **Prayer-Meetings and Singing Schools.**

Our Prayer Meetings from the first have been interesting, but now the rooms are full every day, and while I am now writing there are sinners here asking the way to Jesus. Yesterday eight rose and requested our prayers, and to-day fifteen. Many Germans have been converted. At our last meeting one rose and said, "I no talk English, but I love my Gott." From these meetings have grown many other Prayer Meetings; from our very large and interesting Singing School have grown others, and there are now three auxiliary Reading Rooms; one in the General Hospital, and two outside the lines, all in a flourishing condition.

### **A Sabbath Lesson, and a Talk with Two Soldiers.**

Soldiers every where take us by the hand as brothers, and by our talking and praying, eating and sleeping with them, there has grown an intimacy which has paved the way for precious opportunities. They are free to tell us their joys and their sorrows. Yesterday I met a soldier on the street, with a wounded hand. I laid my hand on his shoulder, and said, "My friend, how is this?" "Well," said he, "I was out hunting Sabbath, and got my hand shot." "Every day has its lessons," I answered. "Did you learn any thing from that?" "I learned," he replied, "that it does not pay to disobey God." "And what are you going to do about it?" I continued. "I would go to Him and tell Him that I am sorry, but I am so wicked that I am afraid," was his answer. I repeated for him some of the precious promises. Just then another soldier joined us. I saw that he was interested, and turning to him, said, "My friend, are you a Christian?" "No," he answered, but I wish I was, and as I heard you talking to this soldier, I thought that you were just the one I wanted to see,—one who would talk right at me, and to whom I could tell my thoughts." Every day there are incidents which have a tendency to call into action all the better feelings of our heart. We hear the new-born Christian tell his joy, and see the dying go in peace, Glorious cause! How pregnant with blessed experiences!

# REPORT OF THE NEW YORK COMMITTEE

## OF THE

### UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

1st January, 1865.

The field of labor allotted to this Committee remains unchanged, and comprises the whole coast line of military operations from Fortress Monroe to the boundaries of Mexico, together with the hospitals in and around New York. By arrangements with the Central Office in Philadelphia, the field from which they were to draw supplies was greatly reduced, and limited to the city of New York and adjacent river counties.

Notwithstanding this change, the Committee have the pleasing and grateful duty of acknowledging that the receipts have been equal to the wants of the Commission, and that they have been enabled to meet all the proper requirements of their delegates, and to furnish a suitable supply of stores and reading matter. They are led to believe, also, that they have been enabled to keep in the field as many delegates as it was advisable to commission at one time. The advance of General Sherman's army to the seaboard, and the increase of military forces in the Atlantic States, as most of the active operations are confined now to them, have increased the duties and responsibilities which devolve upon the Committee, and they trust, by Divine blessing, and a generous support from the public, to be able adequately to meet them.

For convenience, the line of coast has been districted into four great divisions—Norfolk, Newbern, Hilton Head, and New Orleans.

I. *Norfolk*, comprising Portsmouth and vicinity. The permanent agent, Rev. E. N. Crane, 9 Granby street, Norfolk, is provided with a full supply of a variety of reading matter and stores, and has usually laboring in connection with him in his district from four to six delegates.

II. *Newbern*, comprising Plymouth, Washington and Beaufort, N. C. The permanent agent, the Rev. A. P. Lovell, Newbern, has a full supply of a variety of reading matter and suitable stores, and has usually laboring, in connection with him, in his district, from three to five delegates.

III. *Hilton Head*, comprising the coast of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, in possession of our forces. Savannah is, of course, embraced in this division, and will probably become the place of business of the permanent agent. At present he is stationed at Hilton Head, (Rev. Dwight Spencer,) where he has a full supply of a variety of reading matter and suitable stores, and has laboring with him in his district from seven to ten delegates.

IV. *New Orleans*, embracing the Lower Mississippi and the Red River country, Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, Morganzia, Brasher City, Donaldsonville, &c. The permanent agent, Dr. J. V. C. Smith, who has been two years steadily, without compensation, in the service of the Commission, has an office, 69 Carondelet street, New Orleans, where he has a full supply of reading matter, and an assortment of such stores as are not supplied by Government.

Besides these four districts, the Committee also attend to furnishing with reading matter the various forts and hospitals in and around the city of New York, where there are usually from ten to fifteen thousand men, in the various stages of convalescence, or encamped for the purpose of organization and discipline.

The stations above mentioned have been kept well supplied with Bibles and Testaments, prayer books, religious newspapers, forwarded on the day of publication, and a large and carefully selected assortment of small books and tracts, many of them prepared especially for the use of soldiers in the field. The supply of weekly and monthly newspapers amounts to upwards of twenty thousand a week. A large supply of writing materials has been distributed; more than fifty thousand envelopes, and corresponding quantities of writing paper, pencils, pens and ink.

In addition to these supplies for the wants of the soldier, we have forwarded to our principal stations large numbers of under-shirts, drawers, stockings, linen, lint and bandages, handkerchiefs, together with an immense number of "housewives," containing thread, needles and buttons, to enable the men to keep their clothes in comfortable and decent repair. Hospital stores, in great variety, and of large amount, have been forwarded, especially blackberry cordial, as a remedy for diarrhoea, the most prevalent and fatal disease to the army at the South. A large proportion of the hospital stores forwarded has been sent to the rooms of the Committee; and it has not been found necessary to purchase much, as the General Government is now well prepared to supply the wants

of the men in the field, unless in exceptional cases, where aid becomes necessary. The Committee have much pleasure in stating that they have at all times received from the various officers of Government the most cordial support and co-operation.

During the past year the Committee have had ninety-three delegates in the field, whose aggregate time of service amounts to nine thousand three hundred and ninety-four days, showing an average to each delegate of one hundred and twenty-two days. Several of our city clergy went to the army, for the purpose of reporting to the Christian public the actual work being carried on by the Christian Commission; and as their sojourn was brief, it reduced greatly the average time of the delegates. With few exceptions, the delegates are ordained clergymen, many of them relinquishing parochial work to enter upon this special service. The health of the delegates has been remarkably good. Some have been sick, but none have died from disease in consequence of exposure in the service of the Committee. The Committee regret to have to record the loss of Captain Joseph L. Randall, who was drowned in the regular distribution of reading matter among the fleet off Charleston. The Committee's boat was struck by a squall, upset and drifted out to sea, and a faithful delegate perished in the discharge of his duty. The Rev. Wesley Robertson died at Jacksonville, Fla., but his death could not be attributed to exposure in the service of the Commission. It was deemed proper, on medical advice, to withdraw our delegates from Newbern during the prevalence of the yellow fever there, more especially as their opportunities of usefulness were, from military regulations, greatly circumscribed.

A financial statement accompanies this report, by which it will be seen that the cash receipts of the Committee have been \$102,747 63, and the expenditures \$63,741 94, leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$39,005 69.

During the last winter, frequent public meetings were held; but since the departure for California of the General Agent, the Rev. Mr. Mingins, these have necessarily been omitted. The Committee have to acknowledge large grants of Bibles and Testaments from the Bible Society, and a full supply of prayer books from Mr. John De Wolfe; and their indebtedness to Dr. N. Bishop and Dr. O. Bronson, the former for the gratuitous and uninterrupted superintendence of the work of the Committee, and the latter for the careful preparation and selection of the reading matter.

# REPORT OF COMMITTEE

FOR THE

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF MAINE.

BATH.

Cash raised.....	\$4,236 13
Cash remitted Jos. Story, Treasurer	\$3,437 61
“ paid for stores.....	272 81
Expenses.....	57 38
Balance, December 30, 1864. ....	468 33 \$4,236 13.

33 Boxes valued at \$1,740 00 were forwarded.

Twenty-seven Public meetings were held in as many towns; five Ladies' Christian Commissions were organized, and quite a number of Ladies' Soldiers Aid Societies became auxiliaries of the Commission.

The work was done personally by the Committee at an expense of *nine mills on a dollar*.

GERSHOM H. PALMER, *Secretary*.

CHAS. DOUGLASS, *Chairman*.

# BOSTON COMMITTEE.

Rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association,  
Tremont Temple, January 1st, 1865. }

The Army Committee of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, who, from the origin of the U. S. Christian Commission, have had the privilege of acting in full co-operation with it, and in connection with the efficient and unremitting labors in New England of a member of the Executive Committee of the Commission\* resident here, beg to present the accompanying summary of their labors for the year 1864.

They have especial cause for gratitude that the people of New

England have so generally recognised the claims of the noble Union army on their sympathy and aid, by largely increased contributions over the liberal amount given in 1863. It was the privilege of two members of the Committee, with other devoted friends of the cause, to accompany the Chairman of the Commission on a visit to the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, in April last, a short time previous to the opening of the spring campaign.

The evidence of the importance and highly practical character of the work of the Commission, and its cordial appreciation by officers and men was so impressive and overwhelming, that they returned with a deepened conviction as to their duty to press the claims of this noble cause on public attention. The annual meeting soon after held in this city, which was thronged with eager listeners and the earnest friends of the soldiers, from all parts of our commonwealth, gave opportunity to diffuse these impressions. For depth of feeling and enthusiasm, it was not surpassed by any of the numerous and interesting religious meetings of the anniversary week.

About the same time, and immediately after the terrible battles of the Wilderness and of Fredericksburg, this Committee, encouraged by their success in making collections, after the battle of Gettysburg, on the Merchants' Exchange in this city, repeated this novel mode of presenting the objects of the Commission. The voluntary and prompt response exceeded the results of our first appeal in that place, and, in less than one week, amounted to over thirty thousand dollars. This so thoroughly advertised the cause, that in thirty days, the sum contributed reached the liberal sum of fifty thousand dollars. Our thanks are especially due to the liberality of our fellow-citizens, who have thus stimulated and encouraged us. By the systematized organizations of monthly meetings in this and adjacent States, under the active efforts of the resident member of the Executive Committee in this city, aided by returned delegates and ardent friends of the cause in the several cities and towns, the contributions have gradually increased to one hundred and sixty-four thousand nine hundred and fifty-two dollars and forty-three cents during the year 1864. The number of packages of stores which have been received and forwarded during the same time, is two thousand one hundred and five, of the estimated value of two hundred and forty-eight thousand one hundred dollars.

Of the several volumes and pages of religious literature forwarded as per tabular statement, especial attention has been given by the

Committee to compiling and publishing the Soldiers' Hymn Book, of which one hundred and twenty thousand copies have been forwarded for distribution. The fact, that nearly all the sick and wounded men are sent to hospitals as near to the seat of war as possible, has relieved Massachusetts, to a great extent, from the duty and the privilege of ministering to them at home, and hence the labors of this Committee have been mainly through the agency of delegates on the battle-field, or in field hospitals.

The thousands of seamen on board the U. S. receiving-ship *Ohio*, at the navy-yard in Charlestown, for enlistment, receive regular ministrations and kind attentions from members of the Young Men's Christian Association, independently of this Committee; and the disabled soldiers, honorably discharged from service, find an asylum in the Discharged Soldiers' Home in this city, where their spiritual wants receive the regular care of a chaplain and other competent religious guides. The sphere of action of this Committee has been limited, therefore, chiefly to the collection of funds and of forwarding supplies for distribution from the Central Office in Philadelphia.

The sympathy between the military and naval branches of the service, has been pleasingly illustrated in the generous amount of \$6,432 26, contributed by officers, seamen, mechanics, and employees in the U. S. navy-yard at Charlestown, and also by a donation made by the officers and men in the navy-yard in Kittery, Maine.

A cargo of ice, vegetables, lemons, etc., purchased and forwarded from this port to City Point, Va., in August, 1864, arrived most opportunely, and we are assured, by the agent there, greatly alleviated the sufferers in the hospitals, in the hour of greatest need and scarcity, after the battles of the Wilderness.

The number of volunteer delegates commissioned from New England during the year has been 359. All have given gratifying proof of devotion to the cause, by their efficient and judicious labors.

While we forbear to discriminate as to the comparative value of the services of these generous volunteers, we should do injustice to the memory of a devoted young Christian brother, James S. Kimball, a member of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, should we fail to bear testimony to his heroic and self-denying character, as indicated in his kind ministrations and assiduous labors to the soldiers, under great exposure, by which his life was forfeited in Nashville, on the 16th of December last.



He has left an example to his young friends worthy of emulation and of our highest respect. We might add incidents of great interest from the correspondence of our delegates, but presuming that many of these will be selected by the Executive Committee from various sources, we forbear to enlarge our report.

We would particularly acknowledge the generous aid afforded to the Commission, and its objects, by the gratuitous services of some of the transportation companies, and, also, by the liberal support of the religious and secular newspaper press generally.

We cannot doubt that the heart of New England will, as heretofore, ever be responsive to the claim of this patriotic and benevolent cause. In the confident hope of an early termination of this terrible conflict of civil war, we are prepared, with renewed courage and energy, to continue our humble efforts to mitigate the sufferings inseparable from it; grateful that we may share in these Christian labors, which have thus far received the most signal evidence of the Divine blessing.

For the Committee;

EDWARD S. TOBEY,  
*Chairman.*

JACOB SLEEPER,  
JOSEPH STORY,  
J. L. WARREN,  
RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.,  
*Members of the Com.*

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## FIRST REPORT

OF THE

### ALBANY BRANCH OF THE COMMISSION.

Three months of the year had elapsed before we were organized; before that time, all that had been done in our city, had passed through another channel. A society of ladies had organized shortly after the commencement of the war in connection with the Sanitary Commission, through whose constant and industrious labors, a large amount of both stores and publications were sent to our suffering men. In the early part of last winter, steps were taken

to get up a *fair* or *bazaar* for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission. A few friends of our organization, made an effort to have the proceeds of the Fair divided between the two Commissions. Several meetings were held for consultation, but no satisfactory arrangement could be made, and the plan was abandoned. In the month of January, a gentleman of our city sent a check for \$100 to Mr Stuart, which was about all that had been done, in this capital of the Empire State, for the U. S. Christian Commission thus far.

In the latter part of March, 1864, through the agency of our "Young Men's Christian Association," Geo. H. Stuart, Esq. and Rev. Charles P. Lyford were invited to address a public meeting at "Tweddle Hall," on Sabbath afternoon, March 27th. The meeting was held, and a very large audience was in attendance, and through the influence of that meeting, by the blessing of God, our little branch sprang up, and is still alive and maturing, I hope, to a larger growth. No collection was taken, but, at the close of the meeting, Mr. Stuart made one of his soul stirring appeals to the audience, stating that any contributions to the funds of the Commission could be sent to two or three of our citizens, whose names he mentioned; on Monday, several sums were sent to the persons named, which so encouraged the friends of the Commission, that, on the 29th, a public meeting was called at the rooms of the Board of Trade, and a resolution was passed unanimously to organize a branch of the Commission in this city. At an adjourned meeting officers were unanimously elected, and ever since we have been progressing harmoniously and more successfully than any of us anticipated.

We have been greatly assisted by the formation of a "Ladies' Branch." By their laborious and persevering effort, more than one third of all our funds have been raised, in addition to a large quantity of stores and publications.

We had but little home work to do here. In the latter part of the summer, a United States General Hospital was established in our city, the inmates averaging from five to six hundred. I have given commission to two of our citizens, who, in connection with our Ladies, visit and hold meetings with the concurrence of the Chaplain. I copy a brief report, drawn up at my request, by the lady teacher of the Bible class in the hospital, a member of the

Ladies' Branch, to whom I am much indebted for valuable assistance in the duties of my office.

"While the Albany Christian Commission has felt the deepest interest for the more distant work in camp and field, it has regarded the hospital in its own city as having a special claim upon its care and labor. The number of inmates is now about six hundred, and these are all convalescents brought from other places to make room for more severe cases; many of them are in quite comfortable condition, though unfit for duty, and to such, confinement in a hospital is very wearisome. The kind and generous superintendence of Dr. Cogswell, the surgeon in charge, and the sisterly care of Miss Eliza Carey, who combines the warmest patriotism with remarkable executive qualities and tenderness of heart, leave little occasion for attention to the physical wants of the soldiers. The principal work, therefore, of the Christian Commission has been to provide for the mental and spiritual necessities of the inmates, and this they have made every effort to do, warmly seconded by the chaplain, Rev. T. R. Rawson. To meet the wants of the men, a library has been collected, and a large room furnished, under the superintendence of the Ladies' Branch. Settees, stools, rocking chairs, centre tables, with lamps, writing materials, pictures, &c., and over six hundred volumes of excellent books, invite the men to rational and elevating enjoyment. Here they delight to meet, to read and write, to hold singing classes and debating clubs, and here is held the weekly Bible class, conducted by a member of the Ladies' Branch. This is a work of deep and growing interest. It has been the privilege of some of the members of the Commission to visit very often at the hospital, and their visits have always been received with pleasure and gratitude. There are always some very ill and suffering ones, and the visitors have been permitted to speak words of comfort and instruction to the thoughtful and ignorant; to help the weak and fearful; to stretch out the hand of faith; to lay hold on an Almighty Saviour, and, beside the dying bed of some to 'sing to them of heaven.' It is a blessed work. Oh, that men were ready to engage in it! Under the united superintendence of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions, a magnificent dinner was provided on Thanksgiving day, which, by the energetic management of Miss Carey, was served in the new dining hall, capable of seating about five hundred. All partook with the greatest zest and delight, and concluded with three hearty cheers for the Sanitary and Christian Commission."

Before dinner, very interesting religious services were held, conducted by Chaplain Rawson and the Rev. Mr. Bailey, pastor of the Third Dutch Reformed Church. A member of our Commission present made a few encouraging remarks to the men, stating some facts respecting the work of the U. S. Christian Commission. The men all seemed quite happy, and to the writer, it was one of the pleasantest Thanksgiving days of his life. During a few months of the summer, we had part of three regiments and a battery in the new barracks on the Troy road. While there, we supplied them with a large quantity of reading matter, and on the Sabbath took one of the city pastors to the barracks, (and with the concurrence of the officers in charge,) held religious service. Immediately after the election, they removed from our vicinity, but the hope is cherished that the seed sown among them while here, may, by the blessing of God, yet spring up and yield fruit to his praise and glory.

The gross amount of our collections, up to this date is....\$10,560 45

The whole amount remitted to the Central Office..... 10,035 50

67 boxes and barrels of stores sent to the Central Office,

estimated value..... 2,300 00

34 Delegates sent from this office, aggregate number of days service, 734

Amount paid expenses of these Delegates.....\$229 52

“ paid for publishing tract..... 100 00

“ expended in connection with hospital work 88 28

“ expended for the relief of sick and disabled soldiers, &c..... 61 22

“ paid for freight, cartage, &c..... 14 06

“ “ “ postage, express charges, &c..... 11 50

“ “ “ printing circulars, notices, blank books, &c..... 20 37

\$524 95

This amount, deducted from the aggregate amount of collections, will balance the account, leaving nothing in the treasury.

Respectfully submitted, WILLIAM McELROY,  
*Treasurer.*

# REPORT

OF THE

## BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Since our organization, a period of nine months, we have equipped and sent into the great army field one hundred and ten delegates. The vital working force of our churches is embraced in this list. Included in these volunteer agents, also, are many of our most influential clergymen. Some of them have been to the front *twice*, and all declare, laymen and ministers, that the period spent with our brave soldiers has been one of the most blessed of their lives. Doubtless it is one of the most *useful*. By these delegates, nearly ten years of labor have been compressed into the service of months. A thousand blessings come back to us from the soldiers for the solace, the cheer, and the spiritual good rendered by the delegates. Facts, of the most thrilling nature, might be adduced on these points, but owing to the necessity of being brief, we omit them.

### Navy.

Besides this co-operative work in the army, we have, by our peculiar position, a special mission of love and labor in the navy. In direct contact with the Brooklyn navy yard, where, more than any where else, United States ships of various grades are put in commission, and where two large receiving-ships are supplying hundreds of marine recruits, our work is becoming one of vast responsibility and deepening interest. With more than fifty thousand precious souls afloat on the deep, guarding our coast, or engaged in battle, having leisure to read and thankfully receiving publications,—it is evident we cannot adequately meet the demand without a greater increase of means. Our agent at the navy-yard remarks: "Our work is constantly increasing with the rapid growth of our navy. Doubtless it will greatly encourage those who sustain this noble Christian enterprise to know that their labors are blessed of the Lord. Several of our officers and seamen have been awakened to a sense of their need of saving grace. They have sought and found peace with God. A number, on leaving, have said, 'Pray for me.'"

"A lieutenant recently returned from one of our iron-clads, up the James, called to see me, and requested another supply of reading matter, having read with diligence and profit the supply we gave them. He said, 'I commenced religious services on board (it being voluntary to attend or not,) and *one* seaman attended. Now,' said he, 'over one hundred attend each service. There is a great change among the crew.'

"A gentleman, recently returned from the scene of action up the James river, informed me that 'at the commencement of the battle, the officers and crew of the above vessel were engaged in prayer, when a heavy ball from the rebel gun struck her deck, over their heads, but apparently they were unmoved. There is an increasing spiritual interest among those who man our war vessels.'

"One young man, an engineer, writes as follows: 'Accept my sincere thanks for the publications which you have so kindly sent me. I will distribute these, but retain some, for they delight my soul. God bless you! I must not forget these publications cost something, and soon I will contribute my mite toward the glorious cause of circulating these gospel truths. I notice many of the papers sent by you are contributed by the young; and some contain letters which I will answer as soon as I get leisure. May God bless them!' Facts of this description might be accumulated to almost any extent, but it is not necessary. All must acknowledge that our brave mariners should have our sympathies, our prayers, and our unceasing labors for their spiritual good. To them, no less than to our heroic soldiers, shall we be indebted for the conquered peace to which, with hope and prayer, our expectations are directed."

*Distribution of publications, &c., from April to January.*

Copies of Scripture and portions of the same, - -	1,174
Psalm and Hymn Books, - - - -	3,950
Knapsack Books, - - - -	49,570
Books for libraries, - - - -	2,396
Magazines and pamphlets, - - - -	49,565
Newspapers (religious and others,) - - - -	174,320
Pages of tracts, - - - -	575,420
Housewives and Comfort Bags, - - - -	2,563
Letter Paper, (reams) - - - -	25
Envelopes, - - - -	3,500

*Moneys received and expended as follows :*

Whole amount received during the year, - -	\$26,926 80
Cash donated to the Central Office, Philada., -	9,000 00
“ paid for publications distributed, - -	1,535 70
“ “ Delegates’ expenses, - - -	1,638 94
“ “ Salaries of Home and permanent Field Agents, - - - - -	650 00
Freight, Baggage, Laborers, etc., Office Rent, Expenses, Postage, Advertising, and Expenses of Meetings and Agents, }	1,242 95

We close this brief view of our work, with thankful acknowledgment to the churches, and to all who have in any way aided us, whilst attempting to carry a Christian influence into our army and navy, hoping and believing that our labor will be seen to have been not in vain in the Lord. The deep and pervading interest which extends to all classes and all ages, including our Sunday-schools and day-schools, gives us the assurance that hereafter as heretofore the work will go on and prosper. With such a field before us, embracing a vast army and navy of young and stalwart men, all clamorous for reading matter, it seems impossible to over-estimate the responsibility of the work, or the good which may accrue, if it be faithfully prosecuted.

Yours,

J. B. WATERBURY,

*Corresponding Secretary.*

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## REPORT OF THE ARMY COMMITTEE

**Young Men's Christian Association,**

**PHILADELPHIA.**

During the past four years, in which the country has been contending for national perpetuity, the Army Committee of Philadelphia has felt the necessity, and enjoyed the privilege of extending aid and comfort to our soldiers in the hospitals and encampments in our midst, and of communicating with their families at home.

One prominent effort in this line, has been the keeping of a re-

cord of all sick and wounded Pennsylvania Volunteers arriving in the various hospitals in and around our city. As we always secure the earliest possible information respecting the distribution of the soldiers, our rooms have become the great centre to which residents of the city and the State turn for particulars regarding their suffering relatives and friends. Nor are the applications confined to our own Commonwealth; they come from every quarter, and none are passed by unheeded. Scarcely a day goes over without some importunate appeals, either in person or by letter; and when the transfers to our hospitals have been numerous, we have had from one to two hundred calls in a single day. When the report of this branch of our operations was made a year ago, we had some twenty-seven thousand names upon our register; now this number is swelled to fifty thousand. We have also the date of every man's admission, his company, regiment, casualty, and his removal from whatever cause, whether returned to duty, transferred, discharged, or by death.

In addition to the registering of names, every hospital has to be visited, and every soldier supplied, from time to time, with reading matter, furnished from the large and heavily taxed, but inexhaustible store-house of the U. S. Christian Commission. At such times, also, words of counsel are given to the men, and meetings held wherever thought advisable.

An unusual amount of labor and large distribution of stores from the Christian Commission have been furnished the new hospital at Beverly, N. J., and with the happiest results to the bodily comfort and spiritual welfare of the men collected there. Mr. Joseph Parker, the agent of the Commission, a resident of Beverly, has given his evenings and Sabbaths to the Hospital. How his faithful services have been met with the fullest appreciation would be abundantly evident from the many and flattering testimonies received from Surgeons Woolston, Snively, Gaunett, with many others, including Chaplain Laws.

Application having been made to Dr. Wagner, long in charge of the above hospital, for a chapel-tent, it was kindly granted. Four ordinary wall-tents have been placed in a row, furnished with tables, benches, and chairs by the surgeon, and stoves, books, papers, and writing material by the Commission; so that now the men have a comfortable place to worship God, and also a place for conversation and reading. More than forty of the soldiers have connected them-



selves with the Temperance Society by signing the pledge, and now hold one additional meeting for prayer each week, to ask God's assistance in the endeavor to strengthen and extend the good work.

Many interesting facts might be stated of the work of grace in the soldiers' hearts, but it would swell this report to an undue length. We will mention, however, the case of a young man, of a Pennsylvania regiment, who had suffered the amputation of his left leg. This youth, finding he was not likely to recover, wrote to his father, residing in the interior of the State, to come to Beverly to see him. He complied with the request, and being a Christian man, was able to co-operate with us in giving counsel to his afflicted son. The boy's mind became deeply impressed with the necessity of having an interest in Christ, and finally he was enabled to give himself away to his Saviour. One evening, he thought it would be his last, and the chaplain having to be absent a few days, he sent for the Episcopal minister of the town to request the administration of the Lord's Supper. Our brother Parker accompanied him. Not being aware of the young man's wishes until reaching his bed-side, no preparation had been made for the ordinance. But this difficulty was soon removed. Application was made to the ward surgeon for bread and wine. He immediately made a requisition on the dispensary for the one, and on the kitchen department for the other. The wine came in a small bottle, and there being no other vessel at hand, this was used for the cup. That night will be long remembered by those present. The soldiers who were awake in the tent, arose from their beds, and sat upon their edge. The minister, the father, and the friend all kneeled around the couch of this young disciple, as they partook with him, now upon the borders of the grave, for the first and last time, the memorial of a Saviour's dying love. "Oh," said the sufferer, "I love this communion with God and his people. I love the hymns, the prayers, the sympathy of kindred hearts. I am now prepared for life or death. Thy will, not mine, oh God, be done." Thus he passed away, after a few days' suffering.

It is a note-worthy fact, that the cause of temperance, and of religion, are gaining many adherents among the soldiers in the hospitals of this department.

H. N. THISSELL,

*Chairman Army Committee Y. M. C. A.*

THOMAS TOLMAN, *Secretary.*

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF

### MARYLAND.

The Committee of Maryland has been most actively engaged during the past year in the performance of necessary labor in the hospitals, camps, &c., of the army and navy of the United States. Signally favored and blessed by the Great Author and Giver of all our means and opportunities of doing good, we have been enabled to overcome difficulties as they appeared in our way, and to minister to the temporal and spiritual wants of thousands of our brave soldiers and sailors, who are perilling their lives on behalf of our common country and its free institutions. In sixteen hospitals, and at twenty-three other points of labor, we have kept our delegates actively engaged, and continued to supply them with hospital stores and reading matter. The hospitals and other points of labor thus supplied are in Maryland and Delaware, in the town of York in Pennsylvania, and in Virginia.

Not all the means and men that were necessary have been supplied for this noble work. But, as far as these agencies of relief could be secured, they have been appropriated, and we have reason to believe that a great many of our wounded have been restored and returned to the ranks, who, but for the timely interposed assistance thus administered, would have died.

On every occasion of anticipated invasion by the enemy, we have had our stores and delegates in readiness, and at a moment's warning they have been placed in transportation for the scene of service. By the timely aid thus afforded the battle has scarcely strewn the field with its victims when they have been lifted bleeding from the soil and conveyed to places of safety, where the ministrations of the Commission have been afforded in the means of temporal relief, and in the counsels and encouragements of religion.

Over seventeen hundred religious meetings have been held, at which more than four thousand sermons and addresses have been delivered. These meetings have been held in hospitals and camps, and wherever else the opportunity could be secured. The effect of services thus rendered has been gratefully realized in the conver-

sion and reformation of many men whose former lives had been distinguished only by profanity and wickedness. By God's blessing these men have been reclaimed, and returned to the army and their homes, to shed the light and extend the influences of religion among associates and friends who had witnessed and experienced but little besides evil in their former intercourse and conversation.

Cheering accounts have reached us of the benefits that have resulted from the establishment of Sunday and Week Day Schools among the convalescents of the hospitals and camps occupying certain localities for indefinite periods. The pleasure afforded the soldier-pupils, and in many cases the soldier-teachers of these Schools has been equalled only by the good they have accomplished.

At a period of great suffering, endured by Union prisoners in Richmond, we enjoyed the satisfaction of ministering to the relief of the sufferers by sending provisions for their use. Advices were received from the persons acknowledging the receipt of the stores, and expressing great thankfulness for the welcome relief they afforded.

One of the most efficient agencies of relief interposed by our Committee is the Steam Fire Engine, introduced into the service of the camp at City Point. The dust of the roads around, and of the grounds occupied by the camp, covered the surface with a deposit of several inches. Large quantities of dust were conveyed by the winds in the warm summer days throughout the camp, covering the cooking utensils and materials, and the beds and faces of the sick and wounded in the hospital tents. The annoyance was very great to all the persons connected with the camp, but to none more, than the men who were confined to their beds, and needed the attention of physicians and friends. By the consent of Mayor Chapman of Baltimore one of the Steam Fire Engines of the city was secured. It was speedily conveyed, with over two thousand feet of hose, to the camp, when it was placed in immediate use. The experiment was most successful. Not only was the dust effectually laid, but the large camp, covering over forty acres of land, was supplied with abundance of pure water from the middle of the Appomatox River. Large casks for the deposit of water have been provided by the Government, and a constant supply kept on hand for camp purposes. In many a thank offering, feelingly expressed, have we been rewarded for the trouble of having the Steam Fire Engine introduced into the service of the sufferers of the army.

To our friend and co-laborer, the Rev. Andrew B. Cross, we are indebted for the suggestion which has thus become such an effective agency of relief.

In compliance with a request of the Committee the loyal ladies of Maryland held a State Fair for the benefit of the U. S. Christian and Sanitary Commissions. The effort was eminently successful. The display of active industry and devoted patriotism was as cheering as it was brilliant, and resulted in a contribution of over forty thousand dollars to our funds. The amount realized by the Fair was over eighty thousand dollars. One half the proceeds was paid into the treasury of the Sanitary Commission.

Respectfully,

J. N. McJILTON,  
*Secretary Maryland Committee.*

### Work at Camp Parole.

The Christian Commission has furnished nearly all the spiritual and moral reading matter, and ministerial preaching and instruction that this camp has enjoyed for the three years of its existence, there never having been a chaplain appointed by the Government for this post, where thousands at a time are quartered, and about forty thousand sojourn within the year. No one can over-estimate the wide and far-reaching benefits of the good instruction and spiritual influences at this focal point, into which come multitudes of paroled prisoners of war and out of which, illuminated and sanctified for good service, they go to all parts of the extended North, and, when exchanged, back again into the army. It is economy, every way considered, to the nation and the army, to keep a well-qualified body of laborers at Camp Parole. This assertion the following facts will, I think, fully sustain. Since the autumn of 1863, going no farther back, there have been, under the labors of Rev. G. R. Bent, Rev. Gideon H. Townsend, and their coadjutors, at least four hundred conversions, it may safely be said; while five hundred persons within this period of a year have joined the Soldiers' Christian Association, there being included in this aggregate many who were already members of churches in good standing. Within the three and a half months last past, about two hundred and fifty hopeful conversions have occurred; while two hundred and seventy-five have joined the Soldiers' Christian Association.

The amount of reading matter distributed by our hands has been large; several hundred Testaments, besides thousands of small publications having been given out to the men just from Andersonville, Ga., within the last few days. How eagerly do the poor men, starved for reading, some of them, for six months or more, receive the reading matter we give them, and especially the Testaments and Bibles.

How many have, in our meetings, spoken of the paradise of Camp Parole, for its spiritual privileges, in comparison with Southern prisons, and the savage treatment there received. How many here have redeemed the pledges and vows there made to God, if they should ever be released and taken North. How many have exclaimed, on arriving, "*This is God's land*, and happy are we now that we are in it again."

May God ever keep them grateful and obedient, and never allow them to forget the five thousand Josephs still remaining in the hospital at Andersonville, too sick to be brought away.

With high esteem,

ERASTUS COLTON,  
*Del. U. S. C. C.*

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### HARRISBURG BRANCH.

Early in May last a Union Meeting of the churches of our city was held in the Presbyterian Church, corner of Market Square, which was addressed by George H. Stuart, Esq., and Rev. R. J. Parvin, of Philadelphia. Immediately subsequent, and as the result of that meeting, several Ladies' Christian Commissions were formed in our churches, which have been co-operating with the Parent Society in Philadelphia. Of the valuable work done by many of the Christian ladies of our city in their care of the sick and wounded in our own Hospital; in their attentions to such as were passing through our city to their homes; and in the supplies they have sent to regiments in the field, we would speak in unqualified praise. Meetings have also been held by members of the Committee, in behalf of the Commission at Millersburg and Trevorton, and

a warm interest excited in the hearts of the people of those districts. The cause was remembered, and generous contributions were given in nearly all our churches on the day of our National Thanksgiving.

For a brief period in the year, Camp Curtin was occupied by new regiments going to the front, and old regiments whose time had expired, and who were being mustered out. The Committee, with other Christian young men of our city, and the agent of our Bible Society, were occupied during that time in furnishing to our eager and thankful soldiery, Bibles, Testaments, Hymn Books, Tracts, Religious Papers, &c., obtained both from the Bible Society and the Christian Commission. A very large number of these articles were distributed. Rev. John W. Davis has been laboring as voluntary chaplain to the Hospital at Camp Curtin, and as regular visitor to such soldiers as might be in the camp, or at the Soldier's Rest at any time through the year. His labors have been faithful and acceptable. He has been largely supplied with reading matter by the Committee.

Services have been held at different times through the year at Camp Curtin, in which members of the Committee have participated, and from which it is believed good has resulted. We have found the labors of the Commission always gratefully welcomed by the soldiers.

Eleven commissions to delegates were issued during the year. The reports of these delegates have already been forwarded to the Central Committee. Two members of the Committee were permitted to spend some time, one with the Army of the Potomac in its hospital at Fredericksburg and its marches from Spottsylvania Court House to the front of Richmond; the other with the Army of the Shenandoah, after the battle near Winchester. Our delegates have been earnest and faithful men, who, often at great personal inconvenience, devoted their time and talents to the relief of the suffering.

The cash contributions received by the Committee in

1864, including a small balance from 1863, amounts to	\$3,332 60
Transmitted to the Central Committee,	3,244 81

The balance has been spent in the local work, or still remains in our treasury.

Very truly yours,

T. H. ROBINSON.

# REPORT OF ARMY COMMITTEE

OF

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

When comparing our work for 1864 with that for 1863, we have every reason to be thankful to our Heavenly Father, who has opened the hearts of his followers to contribute liberally to our Commission, and thus enable us to carry to many of our sick and dying soldiers comforts both for the soul and body.

We have forwarded to different parts of our armies 3,607 cases of hospital stores and publications, amounting in value to \$208,940 24, (compared with 836 cases valued at \$45,708 79 of last year.) To distribute this amount of stores, it has cost the Commission but \$1,024 99;—this includes office expenses, wages of boys, postage, freight, &c., or 4-10 of one per cent. of the value of stores thus distributed. All the railroads have carried our stores and delegates free; and thus the contributions to our Commission go direct to the soldiers.

**HOME WORK.**—The U. S. General Hospital in our city is visited weekly by the ladies of the Christian Commission, and such articles as are needed by the soldiers are given to them directly.

By the permission of the surgeon in charge, Dr. Bryan, a school has been started, where over one hundred and forty of the patients attend daily, and receive instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic and English grammar. This school is under the care of two soldiers, detailed for this purpose. The school is now in successful operation, and reflects much credit on those who have it in charge. A library and reading-room is now in course of erection, and when completed, will contain a choice collection of books, files of the different papers, writing paper and envelopes for the use of the soldiers.

**AT CAMP REYNOLDS.**—The Christian Commission Station at this camp, at first, was under the charge of Rev. Mr. Noyes. For the past six months, H. L. Watkins has been laboring with great success.

Large amounts of writing paper, envelopes, religious papers and books have been distributed at this camp. The rooms of the Commission are open at all times, and any soldier can come in and write a letter or obtain a book from the library. As this camp has been and is yet a rendezvous for drafted men, and for soldiers on their way to their regiments, a large number of soldiers are constantly here, and yet they seldom remain here long, but are daily coming and going—thus making the duties of the Commission more arduous and needful. And if our city preachers could but realize the amount of good that can be accomplished at this camp, and the deep interest many of the men feel in religious subjects; or if they did but hear the expressions of the soldiers, when Sunday morning arrived, but no minister from the city could be found, who was willing to leave his family for one night, and speak to them of our Saviour's love, and the many *sacrifices He made for us*;—"The preachers in Pittsburgh don't care for the souls of the soldiers in Camp Reynolds."

**LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.**—In the beginning of August last, a Ladies' Christian Commission was formed by the ladies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, as an auxiliary to the U. S. Christian Commission. They meet every afternoon at their rooms in City Hall, cut out articles of clothing which are made up gratuitously by the ladies of our cities. They have made up during the five months over 4,836 articles of hospital clothing, covered 1,848 pairs of crutches, and made 1,846 rolls of bandages.

**PUBLIC MEETINGS.**—At the beginning of the present year, we commenced with almost an empty treasury. At the annual meeting held in May last, an earnest appeal was made in behalf of our Commission, by Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., of Philadelphia, and Dr. Pressly, of our city. A statement of the work we had done was made, after which a collection, amounting to \$22,000 was lifted, which was increased the next day to \$45,000; being the largest amount ever contributed to any object at a public meeting in our city. The Thanksgiving collections have amounted to over \$21,000.



**WORK IN ELMIRA, NEW YORK.**

The Army Committee of the Elmira Young Men's Christian Association, would report to you for the two quarters ending January 25th, 1865, as having distributed, in the camps and hospitals at this depot, 2,285 Bibles and Testaments, 424 hymn-books, 3,462 Soldiers' Books, 5,950 pages of tracts, 7,898 religious papers. 200 bound volumes for the hospital library, and one large print Bible, for each ward in the two hospitals.

To the prisoners of war, 965 Bibles and Testaments, 84 hymn books, 4,906 soldiers' books, 2,800 pages of tracts, 3,381 religious papers, about 150 bound volumes for a camp library; also, about 3,000 pages of tracts, distributed by two Quaker ladies, who visited the prisoners for this purpose. Our own and other clergymen have visited them from time to time, distributing more or less religious reading; one has held a regular religious service with them Sabbath afternoon. Many letters have been received from the prisoners, expressing deep and heart-felt gratitude for the interest taken in their religious welfare, by the Christian Commission and others. In many of their letters, they speak of the kind treatment which they receive from those who have them in charge. It is generally understood among these prisoners, that a request made either to the Army Committee, or the agent of the Commission at this depot, for a Bible, will be granted; and every request which we have received for a Bible has been granted, and for other religious works, so far as we have been able.

A religious service has been held every Sabbath afternoon in our own hospitals, and a good deal of religious interest has been manifested in one of the hospitals, and many of the sick and wounded have been hopefully converted to Christ. Many cases of deep interest have come under the observation of the Committee. So far as we have been able, a religious service has been held at the several barracks. A large number of soldiers' families have been and are being assisted to wood, coal, provision, clothing, etc.

The weekly supply of religious papers received from the Christian Commission, are most acceptable not only to those confined in the hospitals, but also to the men in camp; and we are welcomed with many warm thanks, and "God bless the Christian Commission."

Yours, very truly,

L. KELLOG,

*Agent Elmira Christian Commission.*

# REPORT OF THE BRANCH

FOR

## WESTERN NEW YORK AND VICINITY.

The Branch Christian Commission for Western New York and vicinity, was organized in April, 1864. Its field is nearly the western half of New York State, and the north-western part of Pennsylvania.

Previously to the above date of organization, the interests of the Christian Commission were maintained by various societies in this field, some of which were exceedingly efficient. The figures in the tables include \$1,172 16, received from the Army Committee of this city, and also the entire report of the Ladies' Christian Commission, one of the most successful organizations in this, or any other State. In February last, a "Central Fair" was held in this city, under its auspices, at which over \$21,000 were realized. Sixteen thousand dollars of this amount were sent to the Central Office, and \$5,000 appropriated to the relief of soldiers' families.

The ladies have been earnestly devoted to their work. The officers, and many others, have spent a large part of their time at their rooms, their only compensation being the satisfaction of doing good to the noble men who are suffering in their country's defence. By an arrangement made at the organization of this Branch, we occupy the same building, and turn over to them all our stores to assort, and re-pack, if need be, and ship to the field.

The report shows that they have sent to the field, during the year 1864, stores to the value of \$30,160 92.

In addition to this, the Ladies' Christian Commission have received and sent forward one hundred and one packages of clothing for refugees. This clothing has been valued at \$3,478 83.

The large amount expended for goods, has been deemed necessary, to answer the demands of auxiliary societies found in almost every town. Over twelve thousand yards of flannel have been cut and made up, without one penny's expense for labor. The express companies carry these packages to and from these societies free of charge. About one-half of our supplies have been sent to the army of the West, by direction of the Central Office. We have been

under many obligations to the American and United States Express Companies, for carrying goods to the field, free of charge. The cash value of the favors granted to us by these Companies would not be less than \$4,000.

Of the seventy-five delegates we have sent, fifty-two have been clergymen, and the aggregate of their services would amount to about *seven years*. If these were paid by the Government as chaplains, their salaries and rations would amount to over \$10,000. We have been informed, in various ways, that their labors were not expended in vain. One delegate reports, in his field of labor, during his six weeks of service, two hundred conversions.

For the most part, we have found the Christian public ready to co-operate heartily with us in this work. One of our directors has contributed personally \$1,500 to our treasury. Many others have given liberally, both of their time and money, to advance the interests of the Commission.

Rev. C. P. Lyford spent about six weeks in this field, lecturing in some of the more prominent places with great success. Many of those who have labored for a few weeks as delegates, have returned with their hearts full of love for the work, and have proved very successful volunteer agents of the Commission. Many societies in the thinly settled towns, as well as in the larger villages and cities, have done nobly. It would be a pleasure to give the names of these auxiliaries, if your space allowed.

Their reward must be, the satisfaction of doing good to the bodies and souls of as noble a class of men as this world ever saw.

In November last we shipped to Annapolis over a ton of poultry, and other materials for a Thanksgiving dinner for the poor, starved men, who were just returning from their captivity in the South.

As our space is very restricted, we will only add, we are thankful to a kind Providence for permitting us to co-operate with others in this great and good work. We have no disposition to slacken our efforts until the necessity for these labors shall cease by the honorable termination of this terrible war.

JOHN D. HILL, *Chairman*.

S. HUNT, *Secretary*.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**CLEVELAND, OHIO, ARMY COMMITTEE, FOR 1864.**

The Branch of the Christian Commission in Cleveland has a comparatively recent origin. The field of Northern Ohio and the adjacent region had been so thoroughly canvassed and occupied by the Soldiers' Aid Society, whose office is in this city, and the confidence of the community was, as it continues to be, so great in the immediate managers of that organization, that our leading Christian men were slow to propose any distinctive effort of a more religious character for the relief of our soldiers. When, however, the need of such an effort became plain, it was laid hold of and pursued with an ardor which atoned in some degree for the delay.

Since its organization on the 15th of May last, sixty-two delegates have gone from this Branch of the Commission. We may say that almost without an exception they have been picked men. Among them have been a majority of the leading ministers of Cleveland and vicinity; six pastors of the city having been absent at one time in the work; and with them many prominent Christian citizens, officers of the churches and physicians and surgeons of experience and distinction. The sincerity of their interest in the work may be evidenced by the fact that a large proportion of the delegates returned with health seriously impaired by over-effort.

One of them, Rev. Dr. Adams, of the First Baptist Church, Cleveland, died at home, Sept. 27th, from the effects of disease contracted in the hospitals at Alexandria. His great excellence and long usefulness made his loss a sore one to the church and to the community.

No complete tabular statement of the labors of these delegates can be made, owing to the fact that these reports have been sent chiefly to the Central Office at Philadelphia; and also on account of the severe and protracted sickness of our Secretary. Although considerable had been done heretofore, it is only lately that the Committee have entered vigorously upon the business of transmitting stores to the army; the first few months of their organization

having been devoted almost exclusively to the collection of funds and the sending of delegates. Within the past few weeks, stores to a large amount have been forwarded to the army, among them three tons of grapes. The amount of money raised is \$8,235 82. The field occupied by this branch is a comparatively small one, extending little, if at all, beyond the Western Reserve. While many communities and towns have been prompt in co-operation, the students and citizens of Oberlin deserve especial mention for the heartiness with which they entered into the work.

### INCIDENTS.

#### THE VALUE OF HOUSEWIVES.

A veteran soldier, whose face had been bronzed by the sun in three summers' campaigns, came to a tent of the U. S. Christian Commission, before Petersburg, and asked for a housewife. He pointed to the rags and holes in his clothing, and said, "These have gathered on me since I lost, at Cold Harbor, the housewife which you folks had given me." The delegate of the Commission succeeded in finding the desired comfort—the last one—amid a barrelful of hospital clothing. The hearty "Thank you" of the soldier told his gratitude, and he began at once a search for the coveted thread and needles.

Among the contents he found a little slip of paper, and as he read its brief message, the tears melted their way down that bronzed face, large and many. The delegate said to him, "Have you found there something unpleasant in your housewife?"

"Oh, no!" he replied, "it is the *kindness* of it that I feel; see here," and he handed the little slip of paper to the delegate, who read, "A little girl, six years old, makes this, and hopes it will comfort some brave soldier." "There," said the brave man, clearing up his eye with a smile, "I would not part with that housewife for a month's wages."—*J. E. Ingersoll.*

#### What the Soldiers Think of the Christian Commission.

It was plain that the labors of the Christian Commission were thoroughly appreciated by the soldiers—and I saw evidence especially that the wounded rebels were surprised and softened by the ministrations of those who gave them, though enemies, Christian compassion and aid.—*Rev. W. L. Goodrich.*

### Gratitude of Soldiers and their Friends.

A young soldier was just brought in, wounded through the lungs, and one arm. I asked him about his friends. He had a sister. I took down his name and hers, and asked him of his spiritual welfare. Said he, "Oh! if you will only make me a Christian." I told him I could not, but tried to point him to Christ. He was deeply moved. I repeated to him the Lord's Prayer, and the prayer of the thief on the cross. Then I prayed with and for him. He wept much. Just as prayer was finished, he drew my face down to his, and kissed me repeatedly. He said he could trust all his interests to Christ, relying entirely upon him as his Saviour. The next day he was still hoping in Christ, but was removed to the boat and conveyed to some hospital farther North. Some time afterwards, I received a letter from his sister, stating that Charlie was dead; that he died among strangers, entirely resigned, and still trusting in Christ. The sister says further: "Oh! how much have I to be thankful for, that he found, in his distress, kind friends to administer to his wants, both spiritual and temporal. \* \* \* I cannot express my deep gratitude for the kindness shown to my poor brother; it is too deep for a mere form of words—it is heart-felt. I never can reward you, but I feel that God can and will. If you knew what a great blessing it is to my poor heart, you would feel already repaid. That kiss he gave you!—oh, if I could only have had one last kiss from those lips, that are now cold in death. Would I could tell you how deeply thankful I feel for the great interest in his welfare. It is not a common thing for me to receive such kindness."—*A. C. Bacon.*

### How the Delegates are Received by the Soldiers.

You are greeted as a welcome messenger from their homes and fire-sides, bringing glad tidings, and assuring them that the great heart of the nation beats in sympathy with its defenders. Delegates of this Commission, coming right from the people, and deeply feeling the soldier's wants, (receiving no compensation except the satisfaction of doing good) are enabled to reach their hearts, as no others can. Even the unconverted, whose hearts are hardened by many years of sinful life, soften under the kindness of those whose every action shows the spirit by which they are actuated. As you pass from one to another of the sick and wounded, you are greeted

with "God bless you!" God bless the Christian Commission! How much we are indebted to those who so kindly remember us in these times!"—*T. D. Crocker.*

### Wounded Soldiers.

A stout, athletic man, belonging to a Connecticut regiment that had been out skirmishing, was brought off the field, mortally wounded. He looked up and asked the surgeon, "Is my wound fatal?" "Yes," was the reply. And while his strong, muscular body was struggling in death, he turned to a delegate, and gave directions as to the disposition of some of his personal effects, including his Testament, and sent words of comfort to the dear ones at home, giving such testimony of Christ's presence in his last moments; and as the veteran's eyes closed in death, he said, "*All is well; my trust is in my Saviour.*"

A young man, who received two severe wounds, smiled, as I approached him, and said, "I am glad to see Christian Commission men, and to receive from them little delicacies, not furnished by the Government—their books and papers, sympathy and prayers." His eyes then filling with tears, he continued, "I know my widowed mother prays for me every day. I must suffer without her; she does not know how badly her boy is shattered. I cannot tell her; it would break her heart: *it would kill her.*"

A young man, about eighteen years old, dangerously wounded, the ball entering his breast, passing through one lung, and out at the back, said, with a happy smile, "I am willing to die or live;—my trust is in Christ." At his request, I examined his Testament, given to him by his mother, and found it saturated with his life's blood. He rejoiced to see the interest manifested by Christians at the North in the spiritual welfare of the soldiers.

## CINCINNATI BRANCH

OF THE

### U. S. Christian Commission.

The organization of this branch was completed on the 4th of April, 1863. A preliminary meeting having been held on the 30th of March, Mr. L. C. Hopkins was elected President, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, Corresponding Secretary, and W. T. Perkins, Treasurer. The Commission, during the first eight months of its existence, occupied a part of the store-room of the Contraband Relief Commission, and carried on its operations under many disadvantages. Public meetings were frequently held in the churches of Cincinnati, and a considerable interest was awakened in behalf of the cause by the addresses of Rev. B. W. Chidlaw and others, who were among the first delegates in the West. Circulars and appeals were addressed to the public through the religious and secular press, and the responses were such as convinced the Committee that the Christian Commission would be sustained by the public; that its grand, two-fold mission of mercy to the souls and bodies of the country's defenders, met a cordial sympathy and response in the hearts of the people.

On the 7th of July, 1863, Mr. Hopkins having resigned, A. E. Chamberlain, Esq., was elected President, and H. Thane Miller, Esq., Vice-President. Mr. Chamberlain, soon after his election, tendered to the Commission the free use of ample store-rooms and a convenient office at 51 Vine street. On the 14th of November, the new quarters were occupied for the first time. Rev. J. F. Marlay was elected Secretary, and Rev. B. W. Chidlaw was made General Agent.

From this time the work of the Cincinnati branch should date. Mr. Chamberlain entered upon his duties with energy and enthusiasm, and from the day of his election until the present has devoted almost his entire time to the cause—assisting in the office during the week, and, in connection with the General Agent, Secretary, and the Hon. B. Storer, (a member of the Committee) holding meetings almost every Sabbath in various parts of the State. In proportion as the people became familiar with the plan and results



of the Commission, their interest increased. Wherever meetings have been held, large and deeply interested audiences have greeted the speakers. Soldiers visiting home on furlough, or at the expiration of their terms of enlistment, have contributed immensely to our success, by the favorable representations they have made of the work of our agents and delegates. The ladies in very many of the towns and cities of Ohio have organized Ladies' Christian Commissions, and hundreds of Soldiers' Aid Societies, already in existence when our work began, have sent their contributions of money and stores to be distributed through our agencies.

The organization of Diet Kitchens in connection with our large hospitals, for the proper preparation of food for the worst cases of sickness, was first commenced by this branch, by the advice, and under the superintendence of Mrs. Anna Wittenmyer. No part of our work has shown speedier results, or promises a richer harvest in the future. Accomplished ladies have taken charge of these kitchens, and thousands of our suffering soldiers have been wholly or in part supplied from them. We have every reason to believe that many lives have thus been saved.

One of the most important features of our work has been the distribution of stationery. During the past year about two thousand reams of paper, with three hundred thousand envelopes, have been furnished to the soldiers from this office. During the presence of Hood's army before Nashville, our agents at that point distributed paper among General Thomas' soldiers at the rate of 35,000 sheets per day. The General Field Agent of our Department—Rev. E. P. Smith—is eminently the right man in the right place; he is fortunate, too, in having secured the services of an excellent, efficient corps of subordinate agents.

A review of the year past will abundantly justify us in thanking God, and taking courage. Our receipts of stores have grown from an average of one or two boxes weekly, to an average of one hundred and fifty per week, amounting, in all, to nearly six thousand during the year. We commence the year 1865 in good heart and hope, not only because of the increasing magnitude and usefulness of our Commission, but because we humbly trust it is to witness the final, glorious triumph of our arms, and the suppression of the rebellion.

J. F. MARLAY, *Secretary.*

# INDIANA BRANCH

OF THE

## UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Our home efforts have been bestowed principally upon the soldiers at Camp Burnside, Camp Carrington, and the Soldiers' Home.

*Camp Burnside* is occupied by the veteran Reserve Corps, who have charge of the five or six thousand Confederate prisoners confined in Camp Morton, a few furlongs north of their own camp. They are the heroes of many battles, and are made of sterling stuff; their duties have been exceedingly arduous and responsible. As there was no place of worship for these soldiers, the Commission furnished material for the erection of a chapel. Col. A. A. Stevens, the officer in command, kindly detailed men of the Corps, who, under the direction of Chaplain Jameson, have put up a neat and substantial building, suitable for religious services on the Sabbath, and through the week; and for a reading, writing, and library room.

*Camp Carrington* has been used by veteran regiments going to and from their homes, volunteers for new regiments, drafted men, and substitutes. General Carrington has kindly set apart one of the barracks, which the Commission has fitted up for a chapel, reading, writing, and library room.

*The Soldiers' Home* was provided for soldiers *in transitu*, and for those unfit for duty, who might be delayed here. It is supported by the National and State Governments. Tens of thousand have been fed and lodged in it. Chaplain Eddy, of the City Hospital, and members of the Committee, have held meetings in it.

We have ordered five of Chaplain Thomas' libraries—one to be placed at each of the points above named. Rev. Wm. C. Shaw, Rev. James M'Foy, and Rev. F. P. Montfort, have preached, held prayer meetings, conversed, distributed Testaments and other reading matter in these camps, and at the Home, at different times during the year.

Rev. H. Gillmore has been employed by the Commission, for the last four months, as its Agent. Auxiliaries have been formed through the State to the number of thirty-five. We have commis-

sioned and sent out forty-eight delegates during the year, who have ministered to our soldiers at Louisville, Nashville, Murfreesboro', Knoxville, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, Washington, and also many minor points.

Many of them, who are ministers of the gospel, state that the periods spent by them in the hospitals, and on the field, had furnished them the richest experience of their lives. They confirm the assertion so often made, that nobler specimens of manhood do not exist, than are to be found in the rank and file of our armies.

We record with sadness the death of two of our delegates, shortly after their return home—Rev. I. F. Smith, of the Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, Ind., and Rev. H. B. Collins, of the Methodist Church, Franklin, Ind. They ministered usefully to neighboring flocks, were both in the prime of life, but their work was done, and they have entered into rest.

The Convention, held by the Western Branches in November last, in Indianapolis, has had a very favorable influence upon the cause in the city, and throughout the State. The Thanksgiving appeal has met a generous response, and we confidently hope that as the benevolent and comprehensive designs of the Commission become better known and appreciated, it will have a still larger place in the hearts of our people.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES N. TODD.

Indianapolis, 31st December, 1864.

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## PEORIA BRANCH

OF THE

### UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Peoria, January 1, 1865.

It gives us pleasure to report a great increase of our work, as the following statement will show. In 1863 we sent nine delegates to the field, and collected eleven hundred and fifty-four dollars fifteen cents. During the past year we have sent forty-one delegates, and our receipts have been forty-one thousand three hundred and seventy-three dollars and twelve cents. Three of our delegates are kept permanently in the field, viz., one at Nashville, and two at Cairo.

The field assigned to us to cultivate, is Central Illinois. About the 1st of June, Chaplain M'Cabe, and Mr. William Reynolds, of our Committee, commenced canvassing the district, and in two months raised over forty thousand dollars. Their first meeting was held at Galesburg, where one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars were raised. Next Peoria was visited, and in two meetings two thousand five hundred dollars were given. Bloomington gave one thousand five hundred and fifty dollars; Springfield, one thousand six hundred dollars; and Jacksonville, two thousand dollars. It was at the last place that these gentlemen met Mr. Jacob Strawn, the giant farmer of the West, who, when the cause was presented to him, at once handed them a check for five hundred dollars, saying that he would make his contribution ten thousand dollars, instead of five hundred, if the farmers of Morgan County would give a like sum. This proposition was at once accepted by Rev. Mr. M'Cabe and Mr. Reynolds, and on the 6th of July they commenced the canvass of the county. They were much assisted in this work by M. P. Ayers, Esq., banker of Jacksonville, who made all the appointments, and assisted at the meetings. In nine days they held eleven meetings, in county school houses, churches, and groves, and raised ten thousand seven hundred dollars; which, with Mr. Strawn's ten thousand dollars, and two thousand dollars collected in Jacksonville, made twenty-two thousand seven hundred dollars, given by MORGAN COUNTY, ILL., to the Christian Commission.

The people of Central Illinois are awake to the interests of our soldiers, and believe our noble Commission the best channel through which to help them. Peoria, with St. Louis, Chicago, and Milwaukee, compose the Western Department, and have assigned to them, as their field of labor, "The Army of the Mississippi." Our own Branch has, however, recently had for its special care the station of Cairo, the *gate* of the Western army. During the last year the Chicago Committee erected there a building suitable to the wants and needs of the work, and we intend to keep from three to five delegates at work there all the time, looking after the spiritual and temporal wants of the thousands that pass and re-pass constantly. We have also given attention to the navy on our Western rivers, which has been much neglected, and have now completed arrangements by which we are enabled to send a package of books and papers, semi-monthly, to every one of the fifty-nine vessels composing the Mississippi squadron. We found Acting Rear Admiral

Lee a warm friend of the Commission, and received from him all the assurance we need.

The funds intrusted to our hands by the friends of our soldiers have been, to the best of our ability, faithfully applied to the objects for which they were given, and many a brave man, in his hours of want and pain, has blessed us, and those who gave us the means to aid him. Our work has been carried on with the most rigid economy at all consistent with the magnitude of the work. *We pay no office salaries*, and our entire expense has been less than two per cent. on amount of cash and cash value of stores collected.

During the past year we have received eight hundred and eighty-nine boxes, barrels and kegs. These stores have been sent to Cairo, Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans and Nashville; and many thankful acknowledgments have been received.

Finding that many soldiers, well watched over by the Christian Commission, while in the hospitals, often suffer greatly for proper food and care, while travelling home on furlough to recruit, as separated from their regiments they are generally without money, we adopted the following plan. Arrangements have been made with all the dining stations to take tickets furnished by this Branch in full payment of meals. A very cordial and hearty response has been given by all the proprietors, and very liberal discounts made. As these sick and wounded men all pass through Cairo, our delegates will visit every boat and train, and every sick soldier, without money, will be furnished with tickets for the necessary meals on his journey. These tickets will be redeemed at the end of each month. Much suffering will thus be relieved, and each soldier will return with grateful recollections of the Christian Commission.

A. G. TYNG, *Chairman*.

G. H. McILVAINE, *Cor. Secretary*.

T. H. HIGBIE, *Treasurer*.

WM. REYNOLDS, *President Y. M. C. A.*

T. G. McCULLOH, JR.,

REV. W. E. McLAREN.

REV. S. WYCOFF,

## LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSION OF THE PACIFIC.

*San Francisco, January 14, 1865.*

MR. GEO. H. STUART,

*President U. S. Christian Commission.*

DEAR SIR:—But few persons on this coast were aware that any such organization as the Christian Commission was in existence a year ago; but now the people are interesting themselves in this noble and charitable work, and it is to be hoped that my future reports will prove more satisfactory than the meagre one I have now to send you. To your delegates, the Rev. Dr. Patterson and Rev. Mr. Mingins, we are indebted for their energy and exertions in enlisting the sympathies of the people.

The Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific was organized in this city on the 7th of June, 1864, and consists of a President, six Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, and a Treasurer. There are twenty life members, twenty-six honorary members, and eighty-eight annual members. Exertions will be made greatly to increase the number of members during the present year.

Auxiliary Commissions have been organized in all the churches in this city, and an earnest effort is being made to secure a permanent monthly income by the members of these societies. Auxiliary Commissions have also been established in the following towns in the interior: Oakland, Petaluma, Santa Clara, Napa, Half-Moon Bay, Columbia,—all of which report to this Commission, and are working earnestly and with considerable success, considering their size. There are many cities and towns on this coast which prefer sending their contributions to you direct, and therefore decline becoming auxiliary to our Branch, in consequence of which our receipts will be materially lessened; but so long as they work and raise money for the good cause, it will make no difference to us.

Rev. Mr. Lyford, a most efficient worker, will soon start for the interior, and endeavor to form societies, particularly Ladies' Christian Commissions, in every town throughout the State where Commissions have not already been established. We find the women of California the workers in all such charities—the men are too

much absorbed in business to find time for any outside work. They will give money freely, but cannot afford time to advance any cause outside of business.

Another great obstacle to our success, as I mentioned in my former letter to you, is our distance from the seat of war. We cannot bring the people to realize the sufferings of our noble army. When listening to our delegates, they are moved by impulse to give freely; but a systematic, conscientious out-pouring of sympathy and money, I fear, is not to be expected.

An important feature of our organization is the formation of a Youth's Christian Commission, which already numbers one hundred and fifty members; and efforts are being made to interest all the Sabbath-School children of this city, as well as of the interior towns. Results, so far, are very encouraging.

The Ladies' Christian Commission have received the following sums of money from auxiliary Commissions:

Ladies' Christian Commission of Columbia.....	\$89 00
“ “ Napa.....	161 85
“ “ Oakland.....	923 57
“ “ Santa Clara.....	766 95
“ “ Half-Moon Bay.....	24 55
“ “ Petaluma.....	766 95
	<hr/>
	\$2,732 87

Several cases of preserved fruits, reading matter, etc., have been forwarded direct to you by the Ladies' Christian Commission of Columbia.

Since the organization of this Commission, we have remitted to you, through Sather & Co., bankers, in U. S. coin—

August 23d.....	\$1,000
September 2d.....	10,000
September 26th.....	14,000

Making in all the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000,) and the Treasurer has on hand \$3,385, which will be forwarded in a few days.

MARY E. KEENEY,  
*President L. C. C. of the Pacific.*

## INCIDENTS.

It is simply impossible to gather into the limited space remaining more than a very few representative incidents; and, indeed, it scarcely seems necessary in a report like this to do otherwise. So much has already found its way into the newspapers of the country, and into the little monthly "Information," that there is little need, though unlimited opportunity, for making many selections of incidents here. We commence with an account of Christian Commission work after the battle of Nashville. This may be read in connection with the report of the Army of the Cumberland.

### THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE.

At the battle of Nashville, General Hood brought the "front" within two miles of our door, and we were able to put twenty-five agents and delegates into the field. This force was divided into five parties. One on the left, under Mr. Farwell, went to General Steadman's command of colored and detached troops; the second, in the centre, under Mr. Ewing, went to the Fourth Corps; the third, under Mr. McLeod, to the Twenty-third Corps; the fourth, with Carter and Jacobs, to the Sixteenth Corps; and the fifth in reserve for the hospitals in the city.

The zeal and efficiency of the delegates on the left attracted the attention of general officers, and the blood-stains on their persons bore witness to their work in carrying off the dead and wounded. A surgeon in charge of a division hospital for the colored troops, called afterwards at our office to thank personally the men who, "without obtrusion, were sure to turn up just when there was need." He said many of those black soldiers were picked up and taken care of that day, who would never know that the Christian Commission saved them.

In the centre, the hospital arrangements were such that there was little need of outside help for feeding the men, and the wounded were taken rapidly back on the Franklin Pike to the city hospitals. Here the delegate's work was principally that of dressing wounds, comforting sufferers, and taking home addresses, memoranda for home letters, and the last message of the dying.



### Night Work.

Having followed all the afternoon in the victorious movements on the left of the cavalry and the Sixteenth and Twenty-third Corps, while they flanked the enemy, and drove them rapidly, continuing on into the night, the delegates found themselves at night-fall on a field which our men had just swept over in a deadly charge on the enemy's guns, helping the wounded to water, bandages and cordials when necessary. The work for the night was to go over the field searching for men who had been missed by the stretcher-bearers, gather up the dead, identify them through their comrades, if possible, and mark them by a card, and to give coffee and hot soup at the flying hospital, and be next friend to men dreadfully wounded, and many of them dying.

### The Brothers.

By a hay-stack we found two bodies side by side, as if laid there by some friendly hand. As we were taking them away, one rose upright, and bursting into tears, pointing to his comrade, said, "It's my brother, sir, my brother. We two were all, and I am alone now." He had missed him in the fight, and hunting over the field had found him dead, and lying down to watch him till morning, had fallen asleep. When we took up the body to lay it with the others, he brought along straw to make a bed for it and for himself. We gave him room in that long row of the dead. Nestling close to the corpse, he lay down for his last night's sleep with his brother.

### Scenes at the Hospital.

The scene at the house taken for a hospital baffles description. While Hood was falling back, the citizens, who still believed in the Confederacy, took their movable property, including bedding and best furniture, to the rear, for protection in the rebel lines. This house had been made a receptacle for neighbors' furniture, and we were able to prop a first class mattress under all the wounded.

All the rooms below, and the piazza on the three sides of the house, were laid thick with officers and privates. Some were sleeping under the power of an opiate, some were already sleeping in death, others were writhing in mortal agony, some calling for the

surgeon, some for water, some for mercy, and some in prayer of trust and joyous hope of heaven just at hand, and others waiting in silent, anxious suspense for the surgeon's decision as to the nature of their wounds.

### **The Dying Soldier's Welcome to the Saviour.**

At one o'clock, after personal attention to every man, and arranging for a watch by relief, we rolled up in our blankets for a little rest. But there was one voice from the wounded rising above all the rest; now in a shriek of torture, and then in a tender appeal to the Saviour. It was from an Illinois soldier, wounded in the bowels. One of the delegates asked, "Jackson, do you love Jesus?"

"*Don't I love him!*" was the instant reply. Long after midnight, that voice from the piazza, distinct in the dreadful chorus of groans, making sleep impossible, stole in on the chilly night-air, like the voice of a flute in the clangor of trumpets. "Dear Jesus, you know I love you. Come, Jesus, dear Jesus, I am all ready now. Come, Jesus. You love me, and you know I love you, dear Jesus." Fainter and less frequent came that sweet appeal, till it ceased, and we slept. In the morning we found a smile in the eye and on the lip of the dead patriot, that seemed to be still repeating, "Dear Jesus, you know I love you."

### **Second Day.**

We gave coffee, and crackers, and chicken soup for breakfast, and then the wounded were taken in ambulances to the city. We found the planter's spades, and dug graves in his garden for our dead, while the shells of hostile batteries were screaming across from two opposite hills almost in line over our heads.

The fight of the second day was still more sharp and decisive. The enemy were routed at every point, and left their dead and wounded on the field. Our men, in the last charge, swept over a ploughed field, sinking in the mud at every step, still pressing on, and many of them falling within a musket's length of the enemy's works. We divided that field into sections, and went over it in search of the wounded, and to mark the dead wherever they could be identified. At night, at five hospitals, we repeated the work of the preceding night on freshly wounded men.

### Three Days the Wounded Fed by the Commission.

The army started in pursuit of the flying rebels, taking with them the hospital wagons and ambulances. The post ambulances were busy taking in the wounded, from the left, and it was three days before these residences, made into hospitals, and filled in one hour from the field of carnage, were emptied of their patients; and then the medical authorities were obliged to press into service the hacks, and omnibuses, and express wagons of the city. During that time we fed the wounded. There was no other provision for their wants, except now and then a wounded man might have in his haversack, a ration or two of hard tack.

### A Delegate's Life Laid Down for the Soldiers.

In that first night of the battle, while we lay listening to Jackson's appeal to his Saviour, the party in reserve, after the day's duty in the hospital, were gathered around the dying bed of a brother delegate, at our home in the city. James W. Kimball, of Boston, who had declined a commission in the army to give gratuitous service in the Christian Commission, had preached in the barracks a few evenings before, and finding a soldier without coat or blanket, shivering in the cold, loaned him his shawl, forgetting his own peculiar exposure to the night wind, after the excitement of a preaching service. The next day he was prostrate with a chill that brought congestion and brain fever. As the guns from Fort Negley multiplied into a hundred batteries along the line, and made the windows shake, his zeal for souls seemed to kindle. He was passing through the barracks and hospital wards, gathering imagined congregations, leading them in song and prayer, and exhorting them most earnestly to a new life. So he continued to the last. It was his soul, Kimball himself, after an over-worked brain had broken down, holding fast to the one idea of his life, salvation now for those who believe in Christ; and thus he passed through fever and delirium, to be in the world above wear and weariness, "forever with the Lord."

REV. E. P. SMITH,  
*Field Agent.*

## GUNBOAT SERVICE.

The religious services engaged in during the thirty-three steamboat, transport, and gunboat trips, have been around the capstan, among the swinging hammocks, on the gun deck, with 10-inch Parrotts, 8-inch Columbiads, and Dahlgrens as companions; on the transports, for a pulpit, often standing on bales of hay and boxes of fixed ammunition on the forecastle, as the men in blue gathered to hear of salvation. Often on the lower deck, despite the noise of the machinery; on the boiler deck, in the cabin, on bow and starboard guard, and all over the hurricane roof and the Texas roof, has eternal life been proclaimed.

In June, coming up the river, the sun setting, the moon rising, the Father of Waters smooth as a mirror, and having had service in the cool of the afternoon, in several places on the crowded boat, the last was on the forecastle. The men were sitting in courses on the huge pile of freight. Singing was at once introduced. The only place where I could command all before me, with such as might hear by coming front on boiler and hurricane roofs, was to ascend the jackstaff and stand upon the crossbeam. Casting my eye up one side, sat a youthful soldier. Jumping upon a box, and extending mine, he gave me his hand, at the same time from his perched position spoke to one of his comrades, saying: "Give the old preacher a boost." With my left hand to steady myself against the jackstaff, I stood upon the crossbeam. The singing closed, the evening was most beautiful. Our steamer was gliding over the unrippled surface, and the singing had quieted the boat's confusion. My lips never uttered "God so loved the world, that he gave His only-begotten Son," when my soul felt more of that love. The fronts of the hurricane and boiler deck roofs were crowded with listeners.

The moon-light service, the unrivalled beauty of the evening, with breeze enough created by the steamer's rapid motion to carry my voice distinctly to each ear; the novelty of my position added to the interest; but, far above all, *Jesus was there*.

The stillness of every one, with the eagerness to catch each word, evinced the Spirit's power. The precious service was closed with singing,

"Am I a soldier of the cross."

While all arose to sing, I sat upon the cross beam, and in a low

voice said to the boyish infantry man on the other side of the jack-staff, "Have you the love of God's Son in your heart?" "*No, sir, but I want it, I must have it, I can't live without it, and from this time I will try to serve him.*"

Coming down from my good pulpit, a number of shoulders were ready to aid the descent. One said, "Bully for you, preaching from the rigging." Another, with misty eyes, "Do tell me how I may have that love."

K. A. BURNELL.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES DURING BATTLE.

Private J. C., 81st Illinois, when for eight months he was on detached service in this city, was more constant at the delightful daily service in the Christian Commission rooms in Memphis than any other man since we have opened, now almost a year and a half. When he rejoined his regiment at Vicksburg, at the very first opportunity, he was at the Christian Commission rooms, and his voice always mingled in prayer and joined in praise.

I marched by his side on Red River, and often had the privilege of addressing the regiment. It was always gratifying to witness the deep respect of all, and ardent love of many, for that uneducated, but consistent, modest, and faithful Christian soldier.

Could you have witnessed the manly steadiness, the unflinching firmness and self-reliance of that hero, when, day after day, under fire on Red River, you would be very willing to acknowledge the power of our blessed faith.

The second or third day of our retreat from the brilliant Pleasant Hill victory, the 81st were supporting a battery, and although somewhat in the reserve, yet were in the open field and in full view of the fighting, and liable any moment to be called into action. Feeling anxious to do something more to nerve them for the conflict, by pointing them to the Captain of their Salvation, I joined them, and was reading aloud, when the attention of the Colonel was called to the squad, who had arisen from their lying down.

The contending forces were changing positions somewhat, and the call for action seemed a little more distant. I read on, commenting somewhat. The squad increased till I had a fair out-door congregation. My friend, the Lieutenant-Colonel, seemed as interested as any. After perhaps fifteen minutes, it occurred to me our position was hardly military. Saluting the Colonel standing modestly by, I begged pardon for what might seem an innovation.

Said he, "*It's quite right, sir*, and I thank you for this interest in my men, although it had just occurred to me that the General might think we were unduly exposing ourselves."

K. A. BURNELL.

### Power of the Daily Prayer Meeting in the Army.

I remember, some months ago, two young soldiers of the 18th Wisconsin decided to pray together daily in their tents. It was a struggle for them; but they carried out this resolution, and soon they were joined by another, and another, and so kept increasing, until their tent was too small to hold the meeting, and the last intelligence I received from them, their little army church numbered about two hundred. They had doubts about praying aloud, for they did not know of any professed disciples of Christ in their company; but when the voice of prayer went up to God's throne, He heard, and made His promise true. This He is doing daily at all the stations in this Department, and all through our army.

REV. F. G. ENSIGN, *from Memphis, Tenn.*

### A Box from Canton, China.

*Canton, China, 23d August, 1864.*

MY DEAR SIR:—If the vessel "Roslyn Castle" safely reaches New York harbor, you will find on board a box for the U. S. Christian Commission, from the two boarding-schools of Chinese girls at Canton, China, belonging to the A. B. C. F. M. One school is under the charge of Mrs. Vrooman; the other is my own. The girls have taken much delight in preparing the various articles to be sold in America for the benefit of our noble soldiers. Voluntarily they laid aside each day part of their "tiffin," or noon-day meal money, and with the sum thus collected bought a pair of "Chinese pillows," together with "rice pictures," and "skeleton leaves, painted." It is, indeed, their "mite," and may a rich blessing go with it.

The Chinese hymns on the "fans and curtains," were translated by Rev. S. W. Bonney, and all prepared by himself to send. He took the greatest pleasure in collecting articles for the Christian Commission, and also the Missionary Museum Box for Montreal, which is on board the same vessel. He was greatly interested in

the labor of the scholars for such a worthy object. The "boxes" have been delayed on account of the sickness and death of that devoted and noble-hearted missionary. After an illness of two months, he passed triumphantly from an earthly to his "heavenly home," having been nearly twenty years in China, toiling faithfully with unrelenting zeal in his Master's vineyard. Thus one and another of our "loved ones" repose in the realms of bliss and light. "The memory of the just is blessed."

"We would not wish them back again,  
To stem the flood of strife;  
Their pilgrim days of joy and pain  
Have merged in glorious life;  
But we will tread the narrow way,  
To rest with them in endless day."

"Our box" is not to be counted valuable for the costly articles it contains; but its intrinsic merit lies in the fact of its being the gift of Chinese girls, grateful for Christian instruction, and desirous of doing what little they could to assist in causing this great rebellion to be crushed. "The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." May that blessing accompany our humble little gift, and "the mighty God of Jacob" ever be the "helper" of our highly cherished native land.

Yours, truly,

C. V. R. BONNEY.

### Hardships.

Rev. D. W. Comstock, a delegate, reporting from Memphis, gives the following graphic description of hardships. After speaking of his service as most delightful, he tells this story, to show that all is not sunshine and ease.

"However vigorous the nerves and muscles of a new delegate are, he needs to be cautious lest he become prostrated, for few, if any, can carry such loads as we do, and walk from five to nine miles, often through deep mud, each day, without great exhaustion. Two facts serve as a great stimulus to urge the delegate onward in his work. First. It is now or never; these golden opportunities for doing good are rapidly "passing away;" and, secondly, the soldiers endure this, and much more, for years, and can't we for a few weeks? But not to theorize. On one occasion I went to

an Eastern cavalry regiment, which is remarkable for the great number of men and their extreme wickedness. The day previously, they, with five or six other regiments, had started on a raid, but deep mud and high water stopped them after nine miles advance, and they returned thoroughly wet and exhausted. To give a correct idea of their condition, you should know that cavalry men can have only 'shelter tents,' which are simply a piece of cloth not to exceed eight by ten feet, which is stretched over a stick, laid in crotches, in the form of the capital letter A, open at each end, unless the soldiers close them with their blankets, of which they have a short allowance. The soldiers call them "dog-tents," as they resemble in form, but not in comfort, the English kennel. To secure more room, and prevent the effects of cold, the boys dig about three feet into the earth a hole as large as their tent will cover. In one side of the wall thus made, they dig out a small fire-place, from which they dig up to the surface of the ground, and from this they construct rude chimneys, some of which are very ingenious, while others are merely a barrel, a hollow log or a joint or two of stove-pipe. Through the pores of the ground and where roots are cut off, the water which falls soaks into the soldiers' houses, hence 'bailing' is a part of 'soldiering.' At such times, one or all must 'bail' as long as it rains, or be submerged. The said regiment returned to their camp to find these 'basements' mere mud-holes. Wet, tired, cold and hungry, many of them chose to wrap themselves in wet blankets and sleep as they could, rather than dip out four or five barrels of water, go a mile and back for wood with which to dry themselves and cook a supper; and, as a consequence, when I found them, quite a number were sick. Two were cramping violently. I sought to find a warm place. Not one could be found whose owner would allow them to come in. One captain said,—'That's a soldier's fate.' Through mud, full five inches deep, I waded an hour to get those men relieved, and gave up the attempt only when assured that no soldier could be removed to the hospital."

### **Rally Round the Flag, Boys.**

#### **THE SPIRIT OF THE UNION SOLDIER.**

Rev. Mr. Knowles, of Batavia, N. Y., says: "A very touching incident occurred just as I was about leaving the army in front of Petersburg, Va. God seems to have given a divine impulse to our



soldiers—a superhuman courage, cheerfulness, hope and determination. Not confined to those who are Christians, but extending to all. It is a beautiful presage of final success to the cause of liberty and of the Union.

A soldier had been brought in on a stretcher, and placed under the shade of a green tree. He was shot through the mouth. His tongue was cut. He was unable to speak, and the surgeon said he must die. Upon a card he wrote his desire to see a delegate of the Christian Commission. They summoned me. As I approached him, he made signs for pencil and paper, and wrote: "*I am a Christian, prepared to die;*" then looking all around on the soldiers, he wrote again, "Rally round the flag, boys. Rally round the flag."

I took it, and, with deep emotion, read it aloud to his comrades standing about him. The dying boy then raised his bloody hand, and though unable to speak, waved it, as Marmion his sword, over his head—with all the enthusiasm of the charge—and then, quietly, while every eye was wet with quickly gathered tears, went away out of the midst of the company, into the City of Peace.

### Individual Relief Work.

WE make one or two extracts from the report of one of our agents at City Point, over the department of "Individual Relief." No. 197—contains the following: "The blessing of many a mother attends the Christian Commission." Our reply informed her that her son was about to start on a furlough of twenty days.

No. 250 referred to the case of J. W. The following is a portion: "I am in great trouble about him. He has been a good husband, well beloved by all in this community. We came from England, eleven years ago. I am a believer in Jesus, and was before I left home, and I do pray the Lord to bless you for your work and labor of love toward the poor, sick, and wounded soldier. Please do all you can for my poor husband; and may God bless you all, and make you a blessing, is the prayer of the least of God's little ones." We answered that the man had been sent to Washington, and we would write to our Agent there to care for him.

No. 312, asking for the effects of J. M., contains the following: "I have been advised to address you concerning my dear departed husband's effects. He left some few things, such as a coat, a knife, a pocket Bible, etc., which would be a great comfort to me in my

deep affliction, if I can get them. . . . Now, would you be so very kind as to see that these things are sent to me by express? I have no friends there, and am compelled to ask these favors of strangers. If you will do me this great favor, I can only say God will reward you for your kindness to a soldier's widow and his fatherless boy. In deep affliction, M. E. M."

No. 305 is from a little girl, and I will copy it entire. because it is touching in its anxious pleading for word from a dear father, then cold in death: "To Mr. G. H. S., of the U. S. Christian Commission: It is now four weeks since we received a letter from my dear father, and heard that he was very sick, and we have not heard a word since. This is the third letter we have sent off, and begged for any one to send us back an answer whether my dear father is dead or alive. My mother is almost crazy, because she cannot hear from my dear father. I wonder if any one there would please be so kind as to write a few lines back again, whether my father is dead or alive. Please be so kind as to write back. If we cannot pay you, the Lord will. Do please be so kind, and answer this letter.

"ANNA H——."

### DEDICATION OF AN ARMY CHAPEL.

Fulfilling the special commission on which I was sent to the field, I left Philadelphia on the morning of Feb. 9th, reported to Rev. Mr. Ashley, at City Point, on Feb. 10th, and reached the Point of Rocks on the afternoon of Feb. 11. I was just in time, for the carpenters were making the last of the seats and closing up the chapel preparatory for the dedication. At evening on Saturday the house was swept, the seats were arranged, and all needful preparations were made for the services of the Sabbath. The chaplains of the army and the delegates of the Christian Commission on the ground mutually entered into the arrangements with warm hearts. Eight of these brethren took part in the solemn and interesting services of the dedication, as follows:

1. Invocation—Chaplain Taylor.
2. Reading Scripture and Hymn—Chaplain Jones.
3. Prayer—Rev. Mr. Oviatt.
4. Reading Hymn—Rev. Mr. Owen.
5. Sermon—Rev. Mr. Hart.
6. Dedictory Prayer—Dr. Brounson. .

7. Reading Hymn—Chaplain Hugar.

8. Benediction—Rev. Mr. Clark.

The Chapel was filled with white and colored troops, with officers, while sixteen ladies were also present, some of them the wives of officers. The singing, led by Lieut. Chamberlain, a devoted Christian, was in perfect taste, and there was an orderliness of demeanor on the part of the audience which would have honored any community. The stillness told of the presence of the Spirit.

This chapel, 60 by 40 in the clear, has been built at a cost to the Christian Commission of not more than \$300. The wisdom and energy of the Rev. Mr. Williams, as in many other departments of his successful service for the Commission, are seen in the security of this really attractive and commodious building.

On Monday night I spoke to the soldiers in the "Hawes Tabernacle," at Fort Harrison, where we had an interesting meeting. The latter part of the evening I passed with Gen. Birney, at headquarters, who is deeply interested in our work, and who, through me, sent his thanks to the Central Congregational Church of Philadelphia, for supplying the Commission with this chapel tent.

On Tuesday evening I conducted the service in the chapel at City Point, speaking from the text, "Notwithstanding, be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." At the conclusion nearly the whole congregation rose to express their desire to enter into the kingdom and to request the prayers of Christians. The work at this point is marvellous.

On Wednesday evening I preached again in the beautiful rustic chapel at Meade Station, in the Army of the Potomac, where, although the evening was rainy, there was a full and serious audience.

My dedication text at Point of Rocks was, "Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

REV. BURDETT HART.

# MILEAGE

FOR THE

## SOLDIERS.

The Electoral College of Pennsylvania, when it met to cast its vote for President, agreed to give the mileage of its members to the Christian Commission. The following is the letter from the Hon. Morton McMichael, President of the College:—

December, 1864.

DEAR SIR:—At the recent session of the Electoral College of Pennsylvania, it was unanimously resolved that the pay and mileage of the members should be appropriated to the Christian Commission, and as President of the body I was directed to hand the amount to you. Accordingly, I enclose to you the order of the State Treasurer for \$594; a warrant from the U. S. Treasury for \$62.50; and the check of C. M. Runk, Esq., for \$21; the latter being an additional contribution, as the accompanying note will explain:—

In making this appropriation, the College intended, beyond the mere donation of the money, to mark the high sense which, in its judgment, is entertained in all parts of Pennsylvania, of the invaluable services which the Christian Commission have rendered to the country. Coming, as its members did, from every congressional district in the State, and assembled, as they were, for the performance of a most solemn and important public duty, it was further hoped and believed that the action of the College in this respect, both as a tribute and a testimonial, might aid in promoting the great objects for which the Commission has labored with such unselfish zeal, such untiring earnestness, and such distinguished success.

With assurances of personal regard, I am, dear sir,

Very truly, your friend,

MORTON McMICHAEL.

TO GEO. H. STUART, ESQ., *Pres. Ch. Com.*

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## ARMY DIRECTORY: U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

APRIL, 1865.

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With Respect of G. (Demond)  
United Christian Commission

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UNITED STATES

# Christian Commission

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 1866.



*In Course of Preparation from Official Sources:—*

**A HISTORY OF THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.**

By REV. LEMUEL MOSS, Home Sec'y, U. S. C. C.

**A BOOK OF CHRISTIAN COMMISSION INCIDENTS.**

By REV. EDWARD P. SMITH, Field Sec'y, U. S. C. C.

\* \* These works will soon be ready, and commend themselves to the friends of the Commission as embodiments in permanent form—and with a fulness of outline and exactness of detail only now attainable—of the four years work of our Commission. They will be published in a style worthy of the subjects.

\* \* Friends of the Commission and former laborers in its service, are respectfully desired to send any material fitted for either of these works respectively to

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UNITED STATES

Christian Commission,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

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FOR THE YEAR 1865.

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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PHILADELPHIA, MARCH, 1866.

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\* These reports are not printed in the exact order in which they would naturally appear, as it was found necessary either to greatly delay the printer, or to insert some in the order in which they came to hand.



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Mrs. Parsons.*Santa Clara:* Prof. Bannister.*Smartsville:* Mrs. Simpson.*Nevada:* J. N. Turner.*Red Bluff:* Rev. Mr. Hurd.*Benicia:* Rev. Dr. Woodbridge.*Yreka:* { Rev. Mr. McDougal,  
Rev. Mr. Cain.*Vallejo:* Rev. N. B. Klink.*Copperopolis:* Judge Rodgers.*Healdsburg:* Mr. Wilson.*Murpheys:* { Judge Ayers,  
Rev. Mr. Pierpont.*Placerville:* { Rev. C. C. Wallace,  
Mrs. C. H. Cole.*Centreville:* Rev. B. M. Seymour.*Petaluma:* Prof. Lippett.



**NEVADA.****NEVADA BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—HEADQUARTERS:  
VIRGINIA CITY.**

Rev. Franklin Rising, Virginia, *Pres. of Ex. Com.*  
 Rev. O. Whittaker, Gold Hill, *Secretary.*  
 Rev. C. V. Anthony, Virginia, Wm. M. Stuart, "  
 Rev. D. H. Palmer, " Simon Fraser, "  
 T. H. Pinkerton, " Rev. W. W. Macomber, Gold Hill  
 W. W. Winton, " F. P. Ball, "  
                     J. B. Winters, Gold Hill.  
 Rev. A. F. White, *Chairman of Carson Committee.*  
 Capt. Cheever, " Ophir "  
 Hon. Judge Haydon, " Dayton "  
 Rev. H. McGrath, " Washos "

**OREGON.****OREGON BRANCH U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.—HEADQUARTERS  
PORTLAND.**

Rev. J. H. Atkinson, *President.*  
 Rev. O. S. Framber, *Secretary.*  
 W. S. Ladd, *Treasurer.*  
 J. N. Dolph, J. R. Weeks, H. W. Corbett,  
 Rev. D. Rutledge, Rev. P. S. Caffrey, Rev. S. Cornelius.

**REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS ARMY COMMITTEES.**

*Jacksonville:* Rev. Mr. Miller. *Salem:* { Rev. D. Leslie,  
*Roseburg:* Rev. D. L. Spalding. { Mr. Parrish.  
*Eugene City:* Rev. Mr. Lewis. *McMinnville:* Rev. George Chandler.  
*Corvallis:* Rev. Mr. Wylie. *Forest Grove:* Rev. Mr. March.  
*Albany:* Rev. Mr. Irvin. *Astoria:* { W. L. Adams,  
*Brownsville:* Rev. Mr. Geary. { Mr. Gale.  
*Lafayette:* Judge Cowles. *The Dalles:* Dr. Steele.  
*Oregon City:* Rev. Mr. Stearns.

**WASHINGTON TERRITORY.****FORT VANCOUVER.**

Rev. Mr. Hinds. Brig. Gen. Alvord.

**GENERAL HOME COLLECTING AGENTS.**

Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., Rev. Geo. J. Mings,  
 Rev. C. P. Lyford, Rev. H. D. Lathrop,  
                     Rev. C. C. McCabe.

## FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

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By the blessing of God on the Federal arms, this, the Fourth Annual Report, closes the work of the United States Christian Commission.

The Commission was created for a special object—to make a channel through which the affection and solicitude and piety of those at home might be fitly carried to the Army and Navy, where, by some of its members, nearly every loyal family was taking part in the great struggle for country, and, at the same time, afford a medium through which a fair representation of the toil and suffering and necessities of men under arms, might be brought directly to the people. As these homes, on the return of peace, have been, one by one, receiving back the volunteers, father and brother and son, the work of the Commission has gradually and naturally drawn to a close.

To the wishes and propositions of many earnest Christian laborers, that the Commission should be perpetuated, and throw the power of such combined religious effort and sympathy into some other channel of Christian labor, we have thought but one answer proper. The churches gave us a specific work to do. That work we have pursued strictly, and with such success as has been granted unto the end; and now it only remains for us to give an account of the stewardships and surrender the trust committed to us.

**Field Work for 1865.**

Special attention is called to the Reports of the Agents from the several fields, given elsewhere.

It will be seen that the work of the Commission's year, up to the disbanding of the armies, has been a continuance and expression of that of previous years.

The Diet Kitchen work, under the supervision of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, was enlarged in the West, and successfully introduced into the hospitals in Washington and in the army of the James.

Early in the year, Mr. T. R. Ewing became the General Field Agent in the army, under General Thomas. His report shows a great work accomplished under more than ordinary difficulties. The battle at Nashville, in December, and the frequent and sudden movements of the troops during the winter, prevented the opportunity for a continued religious effort, usually afforded by an army in winter quarters.

Yet at Huntsville, in the Fourth Corps, and in the same corps, at Nashville, in the spring, there was such a degree of religious interest manifested, as, in any one of our churches at home, would have been called a remarkable revival. The labors, as given in Mr. Ewing's Report, of Rev. Mr. McLeod, who accompanied the Sixteenth Army Corps to Mobile, afforded a fine illustration of the method and facility of the Christian Commission. With no appliances but his chapel tents and canvass roofs, depending on the good-will and kind offices of the men and their commanders, and supported by the prayers and gifts of the soldiers' friends in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, and Western New York, he marched to the Gulf with those twenty thousand men, the sole representative of the Commission, and made it felt as a power for good, spiritual and temporal, in every regiment of the corps.

The field work in the Mississippi Valley is set forth in the Report of the St. Louis Branch. Rev. J. R. Miller sketches accurately the Commission campaign in the Shenandoah. The Report of the Washington Commission, by Mr. Ballantyne, is accompanied by the Reports and sketches of the station agents in that Department.

In the Reports of the Commission in the armies operating against

Richmond, additional to the General Field Agent's sketch, we have given extended reports of the Field and Station and Corps Agents, believing that the interest derived, from accounts by eye-witnesses, will justify the partial repetition, and because this final Report furnishes a last opportunity to record in detail, a work whose leading features have been called forth for the first, and, we trust, the last time in the history of our land.

The late work, in Texas, is given more in detail than that of any other part of the year, because of its value in showing what needs to be done, and what can be done for our army in time of peace. We trust that the different Christian organizations will see how wide and hopeful a field of Christian labor is to be always found among seventy-five thousand troops of our standing army. The American Church can never again neglect the American soldier.

There are many laborers, both at home and in the field, whose names deserve a record in a last report. But the list would grow beyond reasonable limit. The 157 ladies, working unobtrusively in our diet kitchens, and attracting little attention outside the hospital ground, have been to many soldiers the greater part of the Christian Commission. They have received a nominal compensation, hardly sufficient to meet extra expenses, and sometimes that has gone for the purchase of delicacies for the sick.

The Report of Jno. Patterson, Esq., on the supply of horses and wagons for the Army of the Potomac, is too long for insertion here. The Executive Committee have twice shown their high appreciation of his services by resolutions of thanks and warm commendation.

The name of Rev. A. G. McAuley, a constant and indispensable helper in Philadelphia, does not appear, because of the impossibility of reporting his labors, various beyond classification, and multiplied beyond counting.

We regret that some of our agents and army commissioners have failed to send in their reports in time.

We submit, herewith, a tabular statement of the receipts and values, and distribution and work of the year:

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES FOR 1865.

Cash Receipts of all the offices.....	\$828,357 70
Value of Hospital Stores donated.....	1,115,457 73
Value of Publications donated.....	83,026 26
Value of Bibles and Testaments donated by the American Bible Society.....	52,382 66
Special grants from the Boston Y. M. C. A.....	1,962 84
Value of Volunteer Delegates' services.....	80,713 69
Value of railroad, steamboat and other transportation facilities.....	51,440 00
Value of Telegraph facilities from Maine to California....	13,325 00
Value of rents of warehouses and offices.....	8,500 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,234,165 88

## SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1865.

No. of Boxes of Hospital Stores and Publications distributed.....	31,483
Value of Stores distributed.....	\$1,311,868 84
Value of Publications distributed.....	\$422,853 47
Value of Stationery distributed .....	\$31,834 71
Value of Chapels and Chapel Tents erected .....	\$20,567 76
Copies of Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scripture distributed.....	328,879
Copies of Hymn and Psalm Books distributed.....	379,150
Copies of Knapsack Books distributed.....	2,611,028
Copies of Bound Library Books distributed.....	159,781
Copies of Magazines and Pamphlets distributed.....	266,180
Copies of Religious, Weekly and Monthly Newspapers distributed.....	6,818,994
Pages of Tracts.....	2,492,473
Delegates Commissioned.....	1,079
Aggregate Number of Days of Delegate Service.....	49,982
Number of Delegates in the field, January 1st, 1866.....	29

There are two items in these tables that may be considered representative items: one of the *home* work and the other of *field* work of the Commission—*delegates* and *donations*. A comparison of these with the same items in the tables of preceding years, will best mark the growth of the Commission, rapid and continuous to the end.

During the first year of the Commission, 356 delegates were commissioned; the year following, 1,207; the third year, 2,217. In the four months of the present year, preceding the close of the war, 1,023 delegates were sent out, which rate continued through the year, would have given us 3,069. Thus reckoning the delegates by the hundred, for more ready comparison, they show an annual growth in the ratio of 3, 12, 22, 30.

In the first year our receipts amounted to \$231,000; in the second year they reached \$916,837; in the third year we had \$2,882,347. From January to May, one-third of a year of active campaign, \$2,228,105, which rate, continued twelve months, would have given, for this last year, \$6,684,315. The donations, counted by the hundred thousand, make an increase in the ratio of 2, 9, 28, 66.

These figures show a steady and rapid growth, without a parallel in the history of Christian charities. Every day of its existence seems to have given the Commission a wider range and a firmer hold upon the affection and trust of the churches and patriots of the land. The boxes and barrels of supplies, and the voluntary donations that were pouring into our offices from well-nigh every town in the country, when the news of the great victory came, are a splendid testimony to the unflagging enthusiasm of its loyalty and piety. We accept this continued and growing favor of the people as their endorsement of the method and spirit of the Commission.

The Commission felt, at the first, that the work undertaken was unique. Experience in other benevolent organizations, could furnish little guide here, and, consequently, they were obliged to begin the field work with no prescribed plan or method, except that it should be Christian, and in accordance with Christian precept, should do good to all, as there was opportunity, by ministering to the want of every soldier and sailor that could be relieved. The idea of *direct* relief, of sending men to distribute the gifts from home, *in person*, to the suffering men, soon appears prominent. Then the volunteer system of unpaid labor, for a term not less than six weeks, is adopted, first, for its economy, but is afterwards continued for its efficiency and adaptation to the peculiarity of the work.

It was found, by experience, that nothing was more needed by the soldier, in his long absence from home, than these fresh in-

voices of home feeling—the piety and solicitude of the sanctuary and fireside brought to the field by these frequent changes of delegates; and it was soon found that friends at home desired nothing so much as the fresh, reliable pictures, by those returned laborers, of a soldier's trials, and gratitude and readiness to receive religious truth. There was a manifest disadvantage in this constant introduction of new workers to the field, but it was more than compensated by the fact that they were *new*—their freshness in strength and zeal and enthusiasm, and especially in sympathy for the suffering, more than duplicated their power.

Our experience in the field has justified the three distinguishing characteristics of the labor of the Christian Commission as a relief agency for the army, viz: that it should be direct, voluntary and Christian.

The organization of our field labor, under the direction of the field agents, grew from first to last into compactness and system; but always around these three characteristics of the relief undertaken, that it should be personal, without pay, and Christian.

A permanent general field agent in each army, with his assistants, one or two in each army corps, have been sufficient to give direction and control to all the delegates who volunteered their services for the term of six weeks. The character of the delegates, for the most part earnest responsible men, fresh in strength and zeal, coming out at a sacrifice, and with a corresponding mind to work, made the duty of directing so many, even in untried labor, comparatively easy. Thus, on an average through the permanent services of each agent, we have made available volunteer labor equivalent to the continuous services of eight men; and from the five thousand volunteers thus directed, we have secured the choicest talent and piety of the land, and in many instances, such services as could have been secured on no other plan. The amount of unpaid labor thus brought to the army, is equivalent to the labor of one man for five hundred years.

The second characteristic of the relief, personality, has also justified itself.

It is better to go to a man in trouble than to send to him. The people could not go, nor could the family friends. The Delegates of the Commission were the family representatives. That spirit was constantly inculcated, that the delegate was the father or brother

of every soldier he met, and what the absent one would do if in his place, that he was to do; and it has been extremely gratifying to see how generally and thoroughly this feeling has prevailed among the delegates, and how readily it has been detected by the soldiers, until the badge of the Commission became an invitation to the soldier to tell all his troubles even to a stranger, and oftentimes to commit his watch and purse to that stranger's care without taking a receipt or asking his name. It was this personal relief that was needed to supplement provision made by the government for the wants of a great army. It was not that the government could not afford the expense of comforts and delicacies, but because it could not give the personal attention necessary to individual cases. Regulations provide abundantly for the army as a whole. But in a million of men, amid the shifting emergencies of campaigns, there will be exceptional cases of so large a variety, that no regulation can provide for all. It is for these exceptional cases that army relief is needed, and they are to be relieved, not according to classified rules. Their cases and conditions are so peculiar that classification is impossible, else the government would have given the relief. They can be reached only by the ministrations of a friend giving himself personally to the work, and having within his reach the appropriate means. And it was to this personal relief that each delegate was commissioned, in the name of the friends he represented and whose tokens of love he bore to the camp and hospital. This absence of constraining rules, and consequent freedom of action by the delegates for cases where necessary military rule had made the suffering, gave the Commission its peculiar power.

In any question of supply, the delegate was enjoined to see that the soldier needs it, and then see that he gets it.

Of the third characteristic, little needs to be said. Piety is certainly no disqualification for disbursing public benefactions at discretion, and when in the nature of the disbursement no satisfactory vouchers can be given. The mode of bestowal will often double the value of the gift. Said a Wisconsin soldier in our rooms at Chattanooga, "These socks warm a fellow before he gets them on." How is that? "The way he gets them." Often have soldiers read on our board at Nashville, "If you are in trouble, speak to any man with the badge,—he is looking for you," and wiped tears from eyes that have looked death in the face without a quiver. Other things



being equal, a Christian is the better man to go to the suffering. True piety will give a gentler touch to the hand that washes a wound and ties a bandage. It makes counsel more effective, and finds more readily the hidden channels of sympathy. It makes the agent or delegate a better representative of home—any home, Christian or not. To say this is not bigotry—it is loyalty to Christ and His truth.

The figures we have given, if they cannot lie, neither can tell the full truth. Those appeals, in the name of Christ and country, to crowded, tearful audiences, in the churches and halls of the land; by them, how many better natures have been touched, and holier purposes evoked!

Those 5,000 delegates, pastors and laymen, sent forth and followed by the prayers of all who pray; how many have themselves been stirred and quickened, and have returned home clothed with new power for good! To how many weary and tempted men have they brought the cheer and restraint of home! Those tracts, knapsack books and papers; how little do these large figures show of their power to re-enforce Christian workers, relieve tedium, quicken thought, and supplant sin!

Those Bibles and Testaments! Given freely every where, and yet scarcely one without its story; many of them well thumbed and kept close and safe in the fight or march, when knapsack and blanket are thrown away.

Those Hymn-books! The companions of the Testaments; how often have they lightened the march and lighted the camp, and brought the home altar nearer the soldier's heart!

Those chapel tents and log churches with canvas roofs, dotting the tented fields! How full of encouragement to faithful chaplains, and how precious in the memory of thousands who confess that they were born there!

Those camp sermons and prayer-meetings! How many weary disciples refreshed, and wanderers recovered—how many tears of penitence and tears of joy in new-born hope—how many a brave soldier's manly word for Christ and truth have they witnessed!

Those sheets of paper and envelopes, counted by millions of millions, each one a soldier's messenger to his home! There was not one too many—not an envelope but was freighted with tidings that

seemed long delayed. What a vast work have they done in bringing camp and fireside together!

Those letters written by delegates! Some of them dictated on the spot where a young patriot was lying in his blood—others bearing home "last words" or a lock of hair, or a leaf from a tree over a soldier's grave. Every one relieved or broke some anxious heart.

Those millions in money and stores! How many hard-earned dollars gladly given, and numberless and nameless comforts, filling boxes and barrels, have an unwritten history in their gathering and in their spending! On how many thousands and millions of hearts, young and old, have they brought down the blessedness of giving! How many old have grown young in the toil gladly accepted, and how many young workers have sprung into the maturity of sacrifice and labor! To how many patriots, on bloody field or hospital cot, have these gifts, fragrant with the touch of home, brought back courage and life! An unwritten history, indeed, for which figures have no power, indicated only by the love that gathered them, and the blessings of him far away, that was ready to perish without them!

### Parting Words.

Our joy in being permitted, by the return of peace to the land, and the soldiers to their homes, to cease the labors of the Commission, is shaded with regret. Very pleasant, indeed, have been our associations, during these years, with those who have toiled for the welfare of the soldier and sailor. We cannot allow them to close without thanksgiving to God for this goodly fellowship.

We do not forget that he who was at once the pride and hope of the nation, an early and devoted friend of the Commission, a most intimate participator at our meeting one year ago, has not been permitted to see the end with us. President's Lincoln's appreciation of the Christian Commission was only another expression of his more than paternal love for his soldiers. To have found a place in such a heart, and the approval of such a mind, we deem a special cause for thanksgiving.

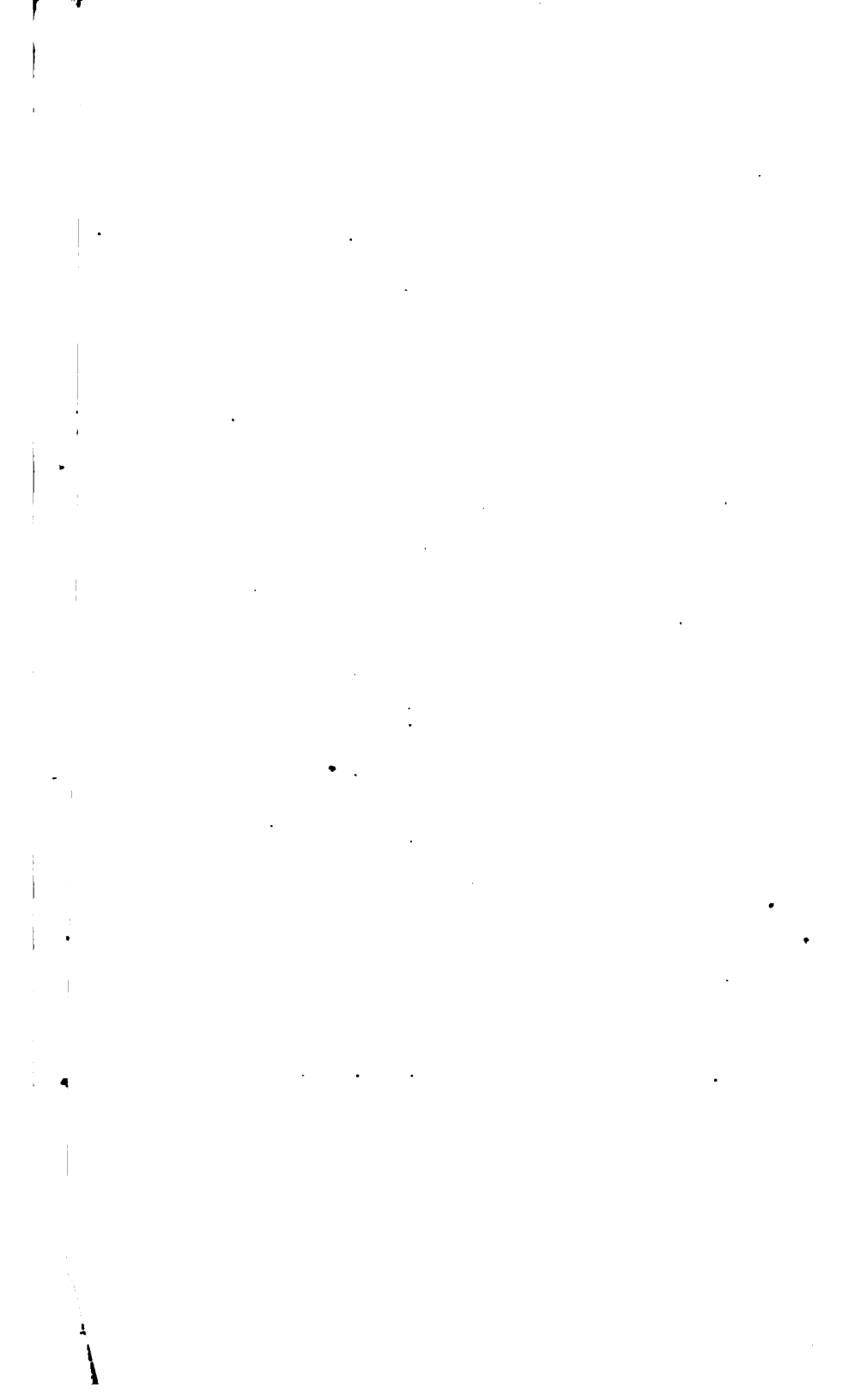
To the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, the heads of the different departments of the army in Washington, and to the Lieutenant-General and all his commanders in the field, we are under peculiar obligations. They have not only allowed and approved, but have enabled us thus to minister to the suffering.

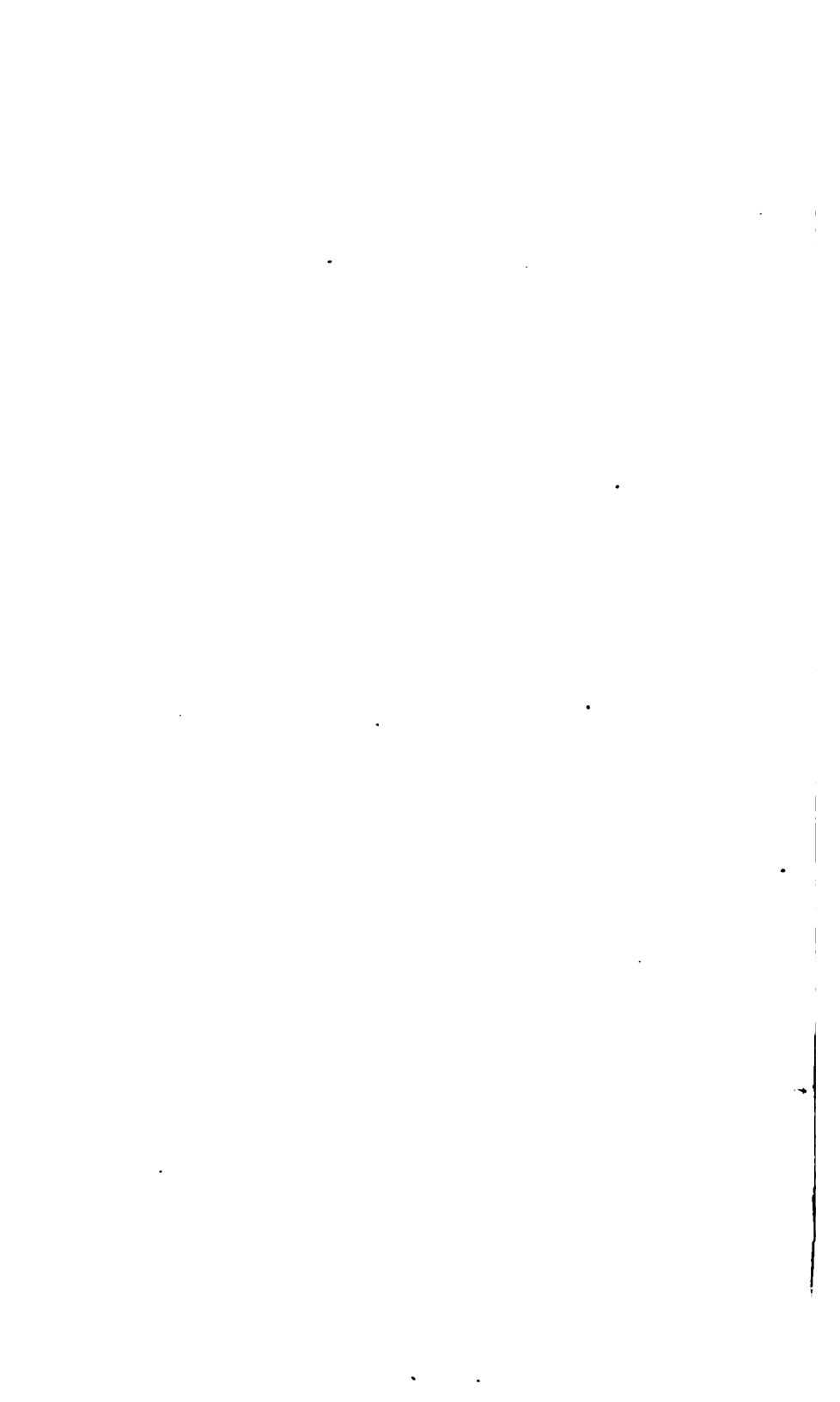
To the army committees in the different branches of the Commission—merchants and professional men—who have left their ordinary business to give time and strength and anxious thought for the welware of the soldier, through the Christian Commission, we have been drawn with increasing admiration and love. Knowing that they have their reward, we desire only to assure them that in our parting, "the tie that binds" is not broken. Memory shall keep it ready for all united Christian work in times of peace, till at length, by God's grace, it holds us again, united in the service above.

To the pastors of churches, the children in the Sunday schools, and to the thousands and millions all over our land who have joined hands with us in these ministrations for Christ, no words of ours can adequately set forth our gratitude in this farewell hour. Upon them we have leaned, and not been disappointed. They have refused no appeals in behalf of the national defenders. Their trust in the Commission, and their generous enthusiasm, growing and swelling to the last, have been our stay and strength.

To the loyal women who, in leagues and aid societies, have fed the flame of piety and patriotism in our homes, and in heavy hours, for successive years, with busy fingers and devices of love, have kept the hands of our agents and delegates in the field so full of comforts for suffering patriots, it is not enough to say we are profoundly grateful. To them, under God, the Commission owes its success. We only anticipate the verdict of the future, when we say that, thus far in human history, such work is exclusively theirs—a work that could have been wrought only by praying wives and mothers and sisters in behalf of imperilled kindred and country.

Finally, to God, the giver and guide of all, we join with each fellow-laborer of the Christian Commission, in thanksgiving and praise. The work is His. To Him, be the glory. We gave the Commission the name of the Master. We sent it forth to speak His words and imitate His deeds. Christ, the Lord, has accepted and honored it; and now, wherever mention shall be made of the work it has accomplished, we desire only that the quick, grateful, adoring response shall be, "See what the Lord hath wrought!"

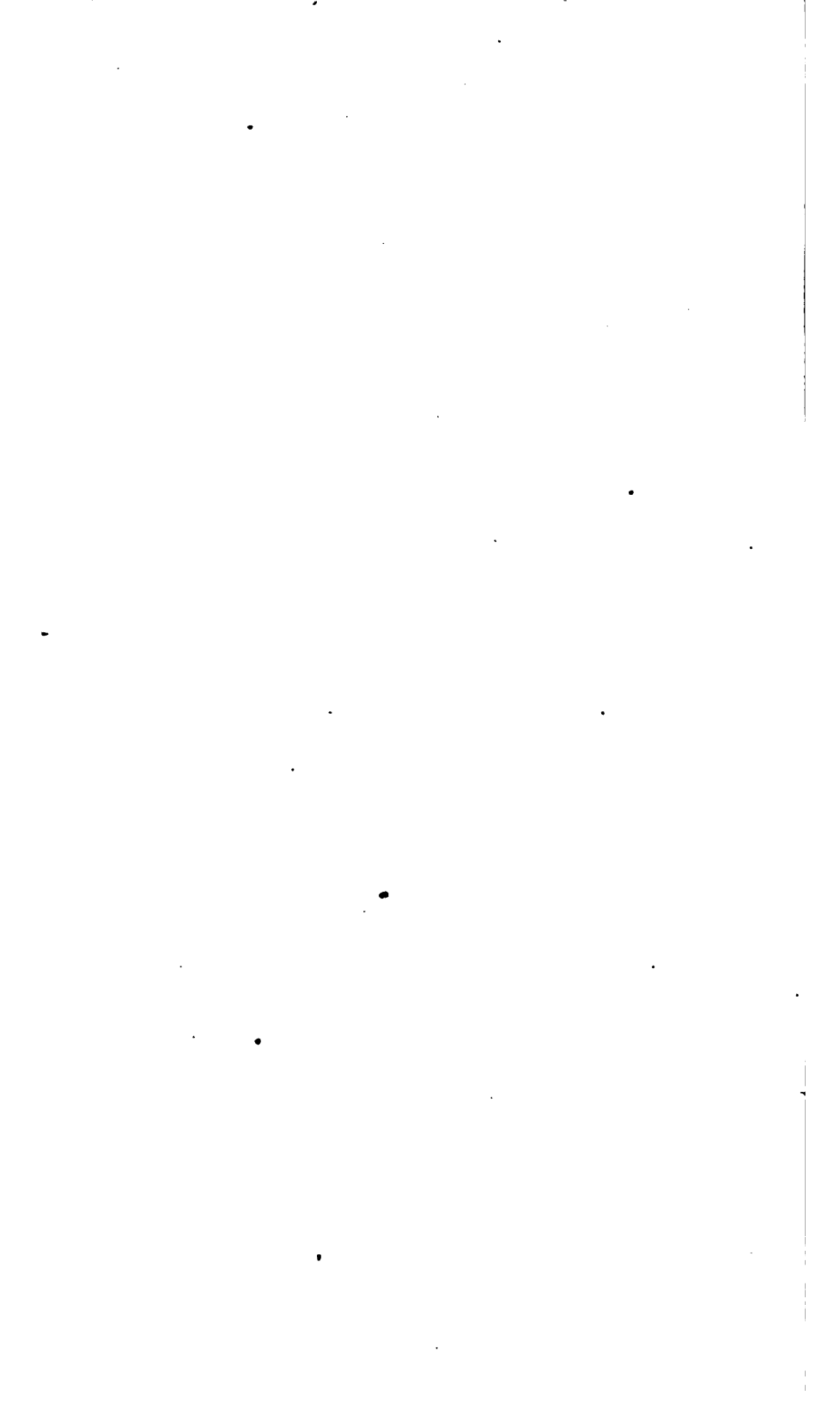




# **EXHIBIT A.**

## **CASH RECEIPTS, TRANSFERS, AND BALANCES OF CENTRAL OFFICE, BRANCHES, BASE OFFICES. AND ARMY AGENCIES, DURING 1865.**

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
		Balance on hand, per last Annual Report, Dec. 31, 1864.	Cash received directly into the various Treasuries.	Cash remitted by Cent'l Office to Branches and Agencies.	Cash remitted from one Branch Office to others.	Total Cash Receipts, including Balance from 1864.
CENTRAL OFFICE, BRANCH OFFICES:	Philadelphia,	\$5,420 12	\$241,186 11		\$229,012 82	\$475,569 05

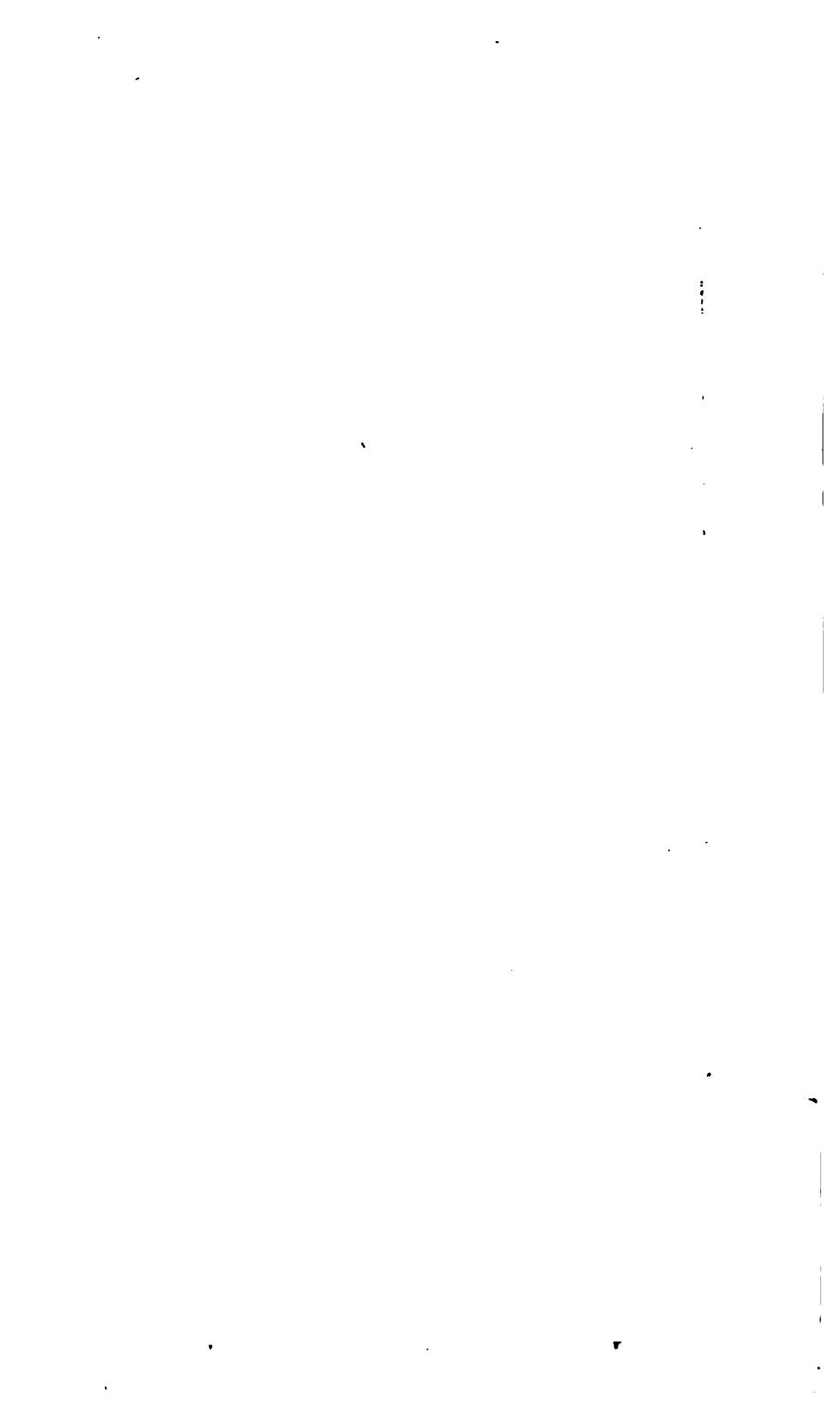


**EX**

s of Cr 1865.

9. Cash paid for Publications distributed.	21. Cash paid for Salaries of Agents.	22. Cash paid for Expenses of Meetings, in- cluding Trav- elling Expens- es of Agents.	23. Cash paid for Rent, Office Expenses, Postage, Ad- vertising, In- cidentals, &c.	Cash Freight postage, &c.
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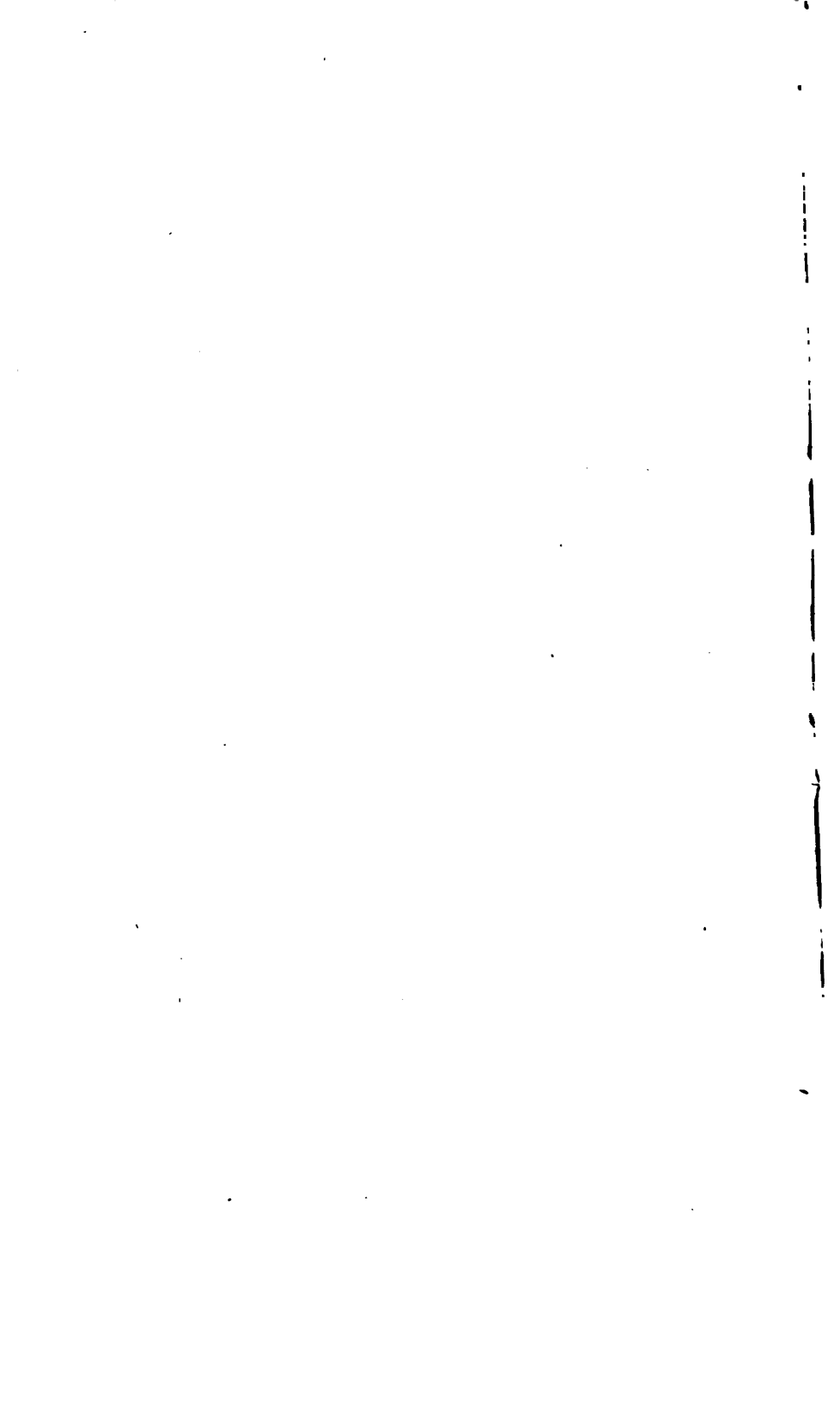


# EXHIBIT C.

## NUMBER OF PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED, AND NUMBER AND VALUE OF PACKAGES OF DONATED STORES AND PUBLICATIONS, DURING 1865.

TITLES.	1. Number of Boxes & Pack- ages of Stores Distributed.	2. Number of Boxes and Pack- ages of Publica- tions Dis- tributed.	3. Number of Boxes and Packages of Donated Stores.	4. Number of Boxes and Packages of Donated Publica- tions.	5. Value of Donated Stores.	6. Value of Donated Pub- lications.
LOCATION.						

Rebel Soldiers of Army of Mississippi, through Memphis and Shelby County	Memphis.....	49,200				
Bible Society, Tennessee, . . . .	.....	328,879	879,150	2,611,028	159,781	266,180
Totals, . . . . .	.....	328,879	879,150	2,611,028	159,781	266,180
					6,818,994	2,492,478



# UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## EXHIBIT D.

TOTAL OF PUBLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED IN 1865, SHOWING GRANTS OF AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, AND THE QUANTITIES PURCHASED AT EACH OFFICE.

TITLES.	LOCATION.	1. Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scriptures, Grants of American Bible Society and its Depositionaries.	2. Hymn Books, and Psalms Books.	3. Knapack Books, in Paper or Flexible Covers.	4. Bound Library Books.	5. Magazines and Pamphlets.	6. Weekly and Monthly Religious Newspapers.	7. Pages of Tracts.
Central Office.	Philadelphia.	187,110	122,811	1,595,067	98,250	174,120	8,689,746	1,362,415
Albany Branch.	Albany.....	300	.....	500	150	1,000	2,040	10,000
Maryland Branch.	Baltimore.....	5,550	8,100	25,372	1,250	1,376	56,800	60,800
Army Committee of Boston Y. M. C. A.,	Boston.....	1,869	25,800	16,580	14,460	.....	22,800	198,720
Brooklyn and L. I. Chris. Commission,	Brooklyn.....	1,500	500	5,000	4,500	8,000	8,500	20,000
Northwestern Branch,	Chicago.....	.....	63,180	14,721	8,328	2,785	410,000	85,806
Cincinnati Branch,	Cincinnati.....	9,940	55,091	458,083	8,678	18,117	803,236	101,658
Detroit Branch,	Detroit.....	200	300	500	.....	150	6,000	.....
Indiana Branch,	Indianapolis.....	10,966	2,930	20,568	1,210	515	18,119	10,452
Kentucky Branch,	Louisville.....	.....	.....	400	.....	.....	5,600	15,000
New York Committee,	New York.....	8,635	84,824	134,276	6,733	15,936	577,650	238,734
Peoria Branch,	Peoria.....	12,608	15,809	119,699	.....	89	161,508	56,928
Army Committee, Western Penna.,	Pittsburgh.....	5,310	18,490	75,600	6,318	37,020	615,485	126,460
St. Louis Branch,	St. Louis.....	9,362	36,865	144,662	14,904	6,285	432,935	206,000
Minnesota Branch,	St. Paul.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6,000	.....
Central New York Branch,	Utica.....	525	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,615	.....
Washington Comm., Dist. Columbia,	Washington.....	26,814	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rebel Soldiers of Army of Mississippi, through Memphis and Shelby County	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bible Society, Tennessee,	Memphis.....	49,200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals,	.....	328,879	379,150	2,611,028	159,781	266,180	6,818,994	2,492,473

# EXHIBIT E.

DELEGATES COMMISSIONED IN 1865, AND THEIR WORK—PERMANENT LABORERS, &C.

## UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

TITLES.	1. Delegates Com- missioned.	2. Number in Field 1st Jan., 1866.	3. Aggregate Num- ber of Days' Service of Delegates.	4. Diet Kitchen. Lady Managers Employed.	5. Army Agents Employed.	6. Paid Agents Employed in Home Work.
Central Office, . . . . .	192	.....	6,924	78	41	16
Albany Branch, . . . . .	3	.....	100	.....	.....	.....
Maryland Branch, . . . . .	27	.....	648	.....	6	1
Bath Army Committee, . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Army Committee of Boston Y. M. C. A., . . . . .	247	.....	8,645	.....	.....	1
Brooklyn and L. I. Christian Commission, . . . . .	52	.....	1,721	.....	.....	8
Branch for Western New York and Vicinity, . . . . .	31	.....	1,438	.....	.....	4
Northwestern Branch, . . . . .	51	.....	2,897	6	4	5
Cincinnati Branch, . . . . .	155	.....	6,501	1	1	1
Cleveland Army Committee, . . . . .	5	.....	136	.....	.....	.....
Detroit Branch, . . . . .	33	.....	1,320	.....	.....	1
Harrisburg Committee, . . . . .	5	.....	170	.....	.....	1
Connecticut Branch, . . . . .	35	.....	1,307	2	.....	2
Indiana Branch, . . . . .	11	.....	448	.....	.....	6
Kentucky Branch, . . . . .	.....	.....	1,121	41	.....	8
Wisconsin Branch, . . . . .	45	.....	1,845	.....	.....	.....
New York Committee, . . . . .	21	.....	5,720	.....	.....	2
Peoria Branch, . . . . .	30	1	1,243*	1	6	1
Army Committee, Western Pennsylvania, . . . . .	40	9	1,175	7	1	.....
Rochester Committee, . . . . .	2	.....	84	.....	.....	.....
St. Louis Branch, . . . . .	39	10	4,764	22	50	3
Minnesota Branch, . . . . .	6	1	241	.....	.....	.....
Troy Branch, . . . . .	4	.....	90	.....	.....	.....
Central New York Branch, . . . . .	36	.....	1,449	.....	.....	1
Washington Committee, District of Columbia, . . . . .	9	1	500	*	*	1
Totals, . . . . .	1079	29	49,982	157	108	53

\* Included in Central Office.

# UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

## EXHIBIT F.

### GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK AND DISTRIBUTIONS FOR 1862, 1863, 1864, AND 1865.

PARTICULARS.	1. 1862.	2. 1863.	3. 1864.	4. 1865.	5. Totals for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.
Delegates Commissioned, . . . . .	1,079	2,217	1,207	356	4,859
Aggregate Number of Days of Delegates' Service, . . . . .	49,982	78,869	41,118	11,598	181,562
Boxes of Stores and Publications Distributed, . . . . .	31,624	47,108	12,648	8,691	95,066
Bibles, Testaments, and Portions of Scripture Distributed, . . . . .	328,879	569,594	465,715	102,560	1,466,748
Hymn and Psalm Books, . . . . .	379,150	489,247	371,859	130,697	1,370,953
Knapsack Books in Paper and Flexible Covers, . . . . .	2,611,028	4,826,676	1,264,591	115,757	8,808,052
Bound Library Books, . . . . .	159,781	93,872	39,713	3,450	296,816
Magazines and Pamphlets, . . . . .	266,180	346,536	120,492	34,658	767,861
Religious Weekly and Monthly Newspapers, . . . . .	6,818,994	7,990,758	2,981,469	384,781	18,126,002
Pages of Tracts, . . . . .	2,492,478	18,681,842	11,676,722	10,958,706	89,104,243
"Silent Comforter," &c., . . . . .	759	3,698	3,285	880	8,572
Sermons Preached by Delegates, . . . . .					58,308
Prayer-Meetings held by Delegates, . . . . .					77,744
Letters Written by Delegates, . . . . .					92,821

NOTE.—There were also distributed, by the various Branches and Army Agencies, during the war, 7,067,000 sheets of paper, and 7,066,000 envelopes.

# EXHIBIT G.

## GENERAL SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND VALUES FOR 1862, 1863, 1864, AND 1865.

PARTICULARS.	1. 1865.*	2. 1864.	3. 1863.	4. 1862.	5. Totals for 1862, 1863, 1864, and 1865.
Cash Receipts at Central and Branch Offices, . . . . .	\$828,357 70	\$1,297,755 28	\$358,239 29	\$40,160 29	\$2,524,512 56
Value of Stores Donated to Central and Branch Offices, . . . . .	1,141,567 73	1,169,508 37	385,829 07	142,150 00	2,839,445 17
Value of Publications Donated to Central and Branch Offices, . . . . .	83,026 26	31,296 32	.....	.....	114,322 58
Value of Scriptures donated by American Bible Society, . . . . .	52,382 66	72,114 88	45,071 50	10,256 00	179,824 99
Value of Scriptures donated by British and For. Bible Society, . . . . .	.....	.....	1,677 79	.....	1,677 79
Value of Hymn Books donated by Army Com. Y. M. C. A., Boston, . . . . .	1,962 84	1,788 06	.....	.....	3,750 90
Value of Delegates' Service, . . . . .	80,713 69	169,920 00	72,420 00	21,360 00	844,418 69
Value of Railroad, Steamboat, and other Transport. Facilities, . . . . .	51,440 00	106,765 00	44,210 00	18,680 00	216,095 00
Value of Telegraph Facilities, from Maine to California, . . . . .	12,325 00	26,450 00	9,380 00	3,650 00	51,815 00
Value of Rents of Warehouses and Offices, . . . . .	8,500 00	6,750 00	.....	.....	15,250 00
Totals, . . . . .	\$2,260,665 88	\$2,382,847 86	\$916,837 65	\$281,256 29	\$6,291,107 68

\* This the work of four months only, as the active campaign closed in April with the fall of Richmond and the surrender of Lee.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

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### **Report of Cincinnati Branch, United States Christian Commission.**

From the first of January, 1865, the date of the last annual Report, until the office was closed, about the middle of August, the work of the Cincinnati Branch continued to prosper. It was understood, soon after the fall of Richmond, that the business of the Commission would be closed up as speedily as possible. Notwithstanding a public statement to this effect, the people of Ohio continued to furnish the means necessary to carry on our operations creditably and successfully, until supplies were no longer needed. Some of the most prominent items of receipts and distributions are given in the following table:

Number of Boxes, &c., of Stores sent to the Field, or distributed at Home, <i>exclusive</i> of those sent to, or received from the Central or Branch offices.....	3,446
Number of Boxes, &c., of Publications sent to the Field, or distributed at Home, <i>exclusive</i> of those sent to, or received from Central or Branch offices.....	161
Number of Boxes of Stores donated directly to this Branch	3,114
Number of Boxes of Publications donated directly to this Branch.....	27
Estimated value of these donated Stores.....	\$289,602 74
Estimated value of these donated Publications.....	3,024 00

#### DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS,

*Exclusive of those received from, or sent to Central office during 1865.*

Number of copies of Scriptures, or portions of them.....	9,940
Number of Hymn and Psalm Books .....	55,091



Number of Soldiers' and Sailors' Knapsack Books, in paper or flexible covers... ..	458,083
Number of Bound Volumes of Library and other Books...	8,678
Number of Magazines and Pamphlets.....	18,117
Aggregate number of Weekly and Monthly Religious Newspapers.....	803,236
Number of Pages of Tracts.....	101,658

In making up this final statement of our Branch of the United States Christian Commission, it is due the generous people who have so freely contributed to sustain it, to make a grateful acknowledgment of their untiring liberality. From the opening of the office, at No. 51 Vine street, until it was closed, an uninterrupted stream of money and stores poured in upon us from the patriotic men and women of the West, and especially of the State of Ohio. Soldiers' Aid Societies and Ladies' Christian Commissions, by scores, and hundreds, kept us supplied with the means to minister largely to the comfort and temporal wants of our noble boys in blue! We held no large sum of money in our treasury, believing that Providence would furnish us the means to do our work. God honored the faith of his servants—since, although our funds were often low, we never were without the means to meet our obligations.

The removal of Rev. E. P. Smith, the efficient and successful Field Agent of our department, to the eastern work, was felt to be a severe loss. From the beginning he had superintended the work in the West with a sagacity, discrimination and zeal worthy of the highest praise. His self-denying labors, amid suffering and personal dangers, in behalf of his country, in all the dark days and months of the great rebellion, should endear him to the hearts of his countrymen.

His place, at Nashville, was well filled by Mr. T. R. Ewing, an earnest Christian gentleman, and a most genial, kind-hearted man and efficient administrator. Mrs. E. P. Smith remained in charge of the "home" at Nashville, performing a service for which few women could have been found equally qualified, with a cheerfulness and a hearty enthusiasm worthy of all honor. Hundreds and thousands of soldiers, who have been in the hospitals of Nashville, will remember Mrs. Smith to their dying day. Not a few will join in gratitude with an Illinois soldier, who said to the friend at his

cot, taking his dying message, "Tell Mrs. Smith I shall thank her in heaven for the ice."

The transfer of Rev. J. F. Loyd, to the Louisville agency, was an important and satisfactory change. Under his wise and faithful administration, and by the transfer of Gen. Sherman to Louisville, this became one of our most interesting fields. We believe that the Christian Commission has had few workers more reliable, faithful and competent than Mr. Loyd. The statistical tables, published in this report, will exhibit the receipts and expenditures of the year. During the last year of our work, our financial records were kept by Mr. W. J. Breed, of the Commission, who rendered thus, gratuitously, a service of great magnitude and importance, in addition to his very liberal cash contributions.

A. E. Chamberlain & Co., have given us office and store-room, without charge.

Our President, Mr. Chamberlain, continued to serve the cause, with unabated zeal and success, until the last. For more than two years all his time was consecrated to his suffering country. By public addresses, all over Ohio, he aroused the zeal of others, and contributed, more largely than any other person, to make the Christian Commission the people's favorite channel of communication with the army. In this work of appeal to the people at home, we have, also, been very largely aided by services most cheerfully and efficiently rendered by Hon. Bellamy Storer and Rev. B. W. Chidlaw. The volume which records the closing labors of so beneficent an institution, would be incomplete and unsatisfactory, if it did not make special mention of these noble men, who rendered such unselfish and signal service to the best government God ever gave to man, in the darkest hour of its whole history.

JOHN F. MARLAY, *Secretary*.

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**Report of the Army Committee of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1865.**

The Committee, in presenting their fourth annual report, would, with profound gratitude, recognize the fact that the fratricidal war commenced in our country in 1861, has, by the victorious army of the Union, under the signal blessing of Almighty God, been brought

to a successful and final termination. The Christian Commission, which has been steadily augmenting its power and usefulness, has never more efficiently extended and applied its labors than during the eventful and closing scenes of the war. Through the unfailing and generous response of the people in various parts of New England, to every appeal made by this Committee, they have been enabled to continue their active co-operation in the work of the Commission.

The facts which they have now the privilege to record, show that New England, during the past year as heretofore, has shared in the grateful duty of alleviating the bodily sufferings, and of ministering also to the spiritual necessities of the soldiers and seamen, by whose valor and sacrifice her homes have been defended.

The <i>Cash Receipts</i> by the Committee during the year have been,.....	\$87,826 24
917 Packages of <i>material</i> supplies have been received and distributed through the agency of delegates, valued at...	114,625 00
Books and publications distributed as per detailed statement in tabular form, valued at.....	46,350 00
	<hr/>
	\$248,801 24

#### **Contributions on the Merchant's Exchange.**

We should do injustice to our fellow-citizens of Boston, if we should omit again to recognize their noble generosity in response to every appeal made. On three occasions during the war the agency of this Committee was offered to the public in the Merchant's Exchange Reading Room, through the courtesy of F. H. Palmer, Superintendent, in behalf of its liberal proprietors, and the whole amount of contributions made there, have been but little short of *one hundred thousand dollars*.

The total amount of cash receipts by the Committee since its first organization have been \$405,852 96.

Of the numerous volumes of religious reading distributed, especial attention has been given to compiling and publishing the "Soldier's Hymn Book," and the large number of copies which have been forwarded in response to urgent and frequent requests from the army gives evidence of the popularity of this invaluable solace to the soldiers.

The life and character of Lieutenant Colonel Dahlgren, was re-

garded as so distinguished for piety and heroism, as to be worthy to be placed prominently before the minds of the young soldiers. Under the direction of the Committee, about two thousand volumes of his biography have been published, by the aid of a special donation from Hon. A. A. Lawrence. The following letter attests the gratitude of the father for this tribute to the memory of his son:

U. S. FLAG SHIP, "PHILADELPHIA,"  
PORT ROYAL HARBOR, S. C., Nov. 24, 1864.

MR. L. P. ROWLAND, JR.,

*Agent Army Committee Young Men's*

*Christian Association, Boston, Mass. :*

MY DEAR SIR:—I have only just now received the copies of the memorial of my son, which your Association has been pleased to assign a place among its publications for distribution.

I am unable to express my grateful thanks to you for this token of regard to my gallant boy.

It comes fittingly from those who, by their youth and convictions, Religious and Patriotic, represent the class to which the young soldier belonged.

You may be assured that this mark of remembrance for my beloved son, will always be cherished by me with feelings that language would fail to convey, and which will be borne in my memory to the end, with the never absent recollection of himself.

With my fervent wishes for the prosperity of the Association and its members,

I am most gratefully and truly,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. DAHLGREN,

*Rear Admiral Com. So. Atlantic Block'g Squadron.*

From the many letters received from the soldiers bearing testimony to the appreciation and happy influence of the religious books which have been distributed, we select a few extracts only:

CAMP OF THE 6TH VT. VOLS.,  
Nov. 19th, 1864.

L. P. ROWLAND, JR.,

*Agent, Army Committee, Young Men's*

*Christian Association, Boston.*

DEAR SIR:—I thankfully acknowledge the receipt of your bundle of hymn-books, tracts and papers, quite exceeding my anticipations;

but as I had them, it became both a *pleasure*, and a duty, to distribute them through the regiment. They were received eagerly,—the supply far below the demand; more so, as our new chaplain, brother William Webster, had not then received his promised bundle, nor has he yet. I read and lent mine, and now would ask *more*, because the reading of such good books and papers makes us *better men*. Every evening I listen to those hymns from the humble tents of my fellow comrades. True, there are but a *few* of the “*faithful*,” but, with God’s grace, more will be brought in this winter. We have an efficient chaplain, and we take courage.

May God bless you in your labors for the preservation of our souls! We pray for your welfare, although strangers on earth. We appreciate these gifts, and determine to live as *Christian* soldiers,—“to endure hardness as such.” I will, if God spare me through this service, accept your invitation to visit your rooms at 5 Tremont Temple. I was in Boston on this conscript business, and bought my precious Bible at the Massachusetts Bible Association, near the American Tract Society. I would not come in ahead of our chaplain in getting reading from you. You can send it to him. But I know of his sending elsewhere; so if you send me another bundle, I assure you they shall be faithfully distributed.

I am yours truly,

SERG'T. GEORGE C. BABCOCK,

*Co. F, 6th Vt. Vols.*

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, March 4, 1865.

L. P. ROWLAND, Jr., *Agent, &c.*

DEAR SIR:—Your kind letter of February 22d, was received last evening. Allow me once more to thank you for your kindness to me, an entire stranger. I am a poor young man, without rank, name or education; but I trust that I “know that my Redeemer liveth,” and pray that I may be found faithful to Him as long as I live. You signified your willingness to send me some more reading matter, if I desired it. If I should send for any more for myself, I should feel as though I was acting selfishly, having already received much more than I expected; but if you wish to send me some tracts or small books to distribute among the soldiers, it would afford me great satisfaction to be the agent of your wishes. There is a strong probability of our leaving here soon. The 3d Brigade of our Di-

vision is embarking to-day. So, if you send books of much weight; they would be inconvenient to carry. But knowing that your judgment is far superior to mine, I leave it to you. Hoping you will excuse me for trespassing so much on your time,

I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

ALBERT E. QUAIPE.

The fact that nearly all the sick and wounded men are sent to hospitals as near to the seat of war as possible, has relieved Massachusetts, to a great extent, from the duty and the privilege of ministering to them at home, and hence the labors of this Committee have been mainly through the agency of delegates on the battlefield, or in field hospitals, although the recruiting camps at Readville, and at Galloupe's Island in Boston Harbor, have received a share of our labors.

The thousands of seamen on board the U. S. receiving-ship Ohio, at the navy-yard in Charlestown, for enlistment, receive regular ministrations and kind attentions from members of the Young Men's Christian Association, independently of this Committee; and the disabled soldiers, honorably discharged from service, find an asylum in the Discharged Soldiers' Home in this city, where their spiritual wants receive the regular care of a Chaplain and other competent religious guides. *The sphere of action of this Committee has been limited, therefore, chiefly to the collection of funds and to forwarding supplies for distribution from the Central Office in Philadelphia.*

The following letter is an evidence of the deep interest of our countrymen, residing in distant lands, in our labors:

MISSIONARY HOUSE, PEMBERTON SQUARE,  
BOSTON, June 6, 1864.

L. P. ROWLAND, Esq.,

*Agent U. S. Christian Commission, Boston:*

DEAR SIR: Herewith I send you a box of wine, which a lady missionary in Turkey has forwarded for the use of our sick and wounded soldiers. She does not wish her name mentioned, but I would state that she is a widow, whose husband was murdered a few years since, after a brief but very active and fruitful missionary

life. She remains in the field, laboring with great devotion. I subjoin an extract from her letter to me, in regard to the wine.

Very truly yours,

JAMES M. GORDON, *Treasurer.*

“KESSAB, July 18, 1864.

I have just ordered a box, containing wine, sent to your care for the sick and wounded of our army. It is marked ‘Christian Commission, U. S. A.’ You will please see that through this society, or some other, it reaches the sick and wounded. The wine is more than four years old, and I know it to be the pure juice of the grape; it having been made by our native doctor at Aintab. You need not give my name, but present it from one who is grateful for kindness shown to a wounded and dying husband; and who, though far away, would fain give the widow’s mite to her country.”

Two hundred and forty-seven volunteer and unpaid delegates, from New England, nearly all of whom were clergymen, have engaged in the service of the Commission during the past year. Their energetic and invaluable labors have earned for them the blessings of numberless suffering and dying men, and of their grateful relatives at home. To this noble band of volunteers the Boston Young Men’s Christian Association has contributed one of its most earnest and efficient members.

The truly heroic and self-denying character of the ministrations of our devoted young Christian brother, James S. Kimball, under great exposure, by which his life was forfeited, in Nashville, on 10th December last, has enshrined his memory in the hearts of his early associates, and has left an example worthy of their highest respect and emulation.

Of the labors and striking incidents of the closing hours of his life, Rev. E. P. Smith, Field Agent, writes:

In that first night of the battle, while we lay listening to Jackson’s appeal to his Saviour, the party in reserve, after the day’s duty in the hospital, were gathered around the dying bed of a brother delegate, at our home in the city. James S. Kimball, of Boston, who had declined a commission in the army to give gratuitous service in the Christian Commission, had preached in the barracks a few evenings before, and finding a soldier without coat or

blanket, shivering in the cold, loaned him his shawl, forgetting his own peculiar exposure to the night wind, after the excitement of a preaching service. The next day he was prostrate with a chill that brought congestion and brain fever. As the guns from Fort Negley multiplied into a hundred batteries along the line, and made the windows shake, his zeal for souls seemed to kindle. He was passing through the barracks and hospital wards, gathering imagined congregations, leading them in song and prayer, and exhorting them most earnestly to a new life. So he continued to the last. It was his soul, Kimball himself, after an overworked brain had broken down, holding fast to the one idea of his life, salvation now for those who believe in Christ; and thus he passed through fever and delirium, to be in the world above wear and weariness, "forever with the Lord."

The exigencies occasioned by the war which brought into existence the Christian Commission, have nearly passed away, and its special duties will probably cease before the close of this year, unless it shall be thought expedient to continue its labors with such portion of the army and navy as may be retained in service. The young men are now to be gratefully welcomed to the homes which they have defended. They have created a new and stronger claim on the community to throw around them, especially in cities, through the Young Men's Christian Association, the kindly influences of Christian sympathy and protection from temptations which will surround them with renewed power.

And now that the demand for aid and comfort on the battle-field is no longer to be made, is it too much to ask, in grateful recognition of their services to the country, that the friends of the several Young Men's Christian Associations, and of kindred institutions in our country, shall indicate a deeper interest in them than ever before?

While the highest order of artistic skill is exhibited in the buildings arranged to allure young men to amusements, shall their friends be less careful to win them, by appropriate and convenient rooms, where they may spend their leisure hours amid the ennobling influences of the social circle, of the reading room, the lecture room, or the prayer-meeting?



Let us rather hope that the substantial evidences of gratitude to our country's defenders will not end with the war.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD S. TOBEY, *Chairman.*

JACOB SLEEPER,

JOS. STORY,

J. SULLIVAN WARREN,

RUSSELL STURGESE, JR.,

} *Army Committee.*

#### Fourth Annual Report of the North-western Branch, United States Christian Commission.

CHICAGO, January 1, 1866.

We rejoice that we are permitted to make a *final* report of our labors; not, that the blessed privileges we have enjoyed are ended, but that the great need of such service is past. Our work, during the past year, may be divided as follows, viz.:

Army work, in the field and hospitals, with the armies under Grant, in Virginia; Sherman, at Savannah; Thomas, in Tennessee and Mississippi; and Sheridan, in Texas. We have sent to this work, *fifty-one Delegates*, who have spent an average of *forty-seven* days each, in the service, delivered five hundred and seventy-one *Sermons* and *Addresses*, and held one thousand one hundred and fifteen *Prayer-Meetings*. We have sent forward three hundred and forty-nine *Packages* of *Stores*, and forty-one of *Publications*, exclusive of those received from Philadelphia, and four hundred and ten thousand copies of *Western Religious Papers*.

*Home work* has been of a three-fold character. 1st, *In our Camps and Hospitals*. The labors at *Camp Douglas* have been carried on with increased earnestness. Several thousands of our own troops, and over seven thousand prisoners of war, have come under our care. We kept one permanent male, and one lady delegate, the latter in charge of our reading-room, and sent volunteer aid to assist in holding a *daily* service, and often more than one. The authorities having built a chapel, we erected an addition for a reading-room, well furnished and cared for, which has been of great value. The interest in the meetings has, at times, been very deep, and many precious souls have been led to Jesus. We also

aided the surgeon in establishing a *Diet Kitchen*, in connection with the hospitals, conducted by two, and part of the time by three, lady managers, supported by us, until there was no longer need for them. We contributed largely to their supply of fruits and delicacies. The results of this work have been most gratifying.

We have been much aided in our labors, especially among the prisoners, by the Post Chaplain. The distribution of *stores*, at *this post*, include one hundred and forty-four packages, and of *Publications*, two hundred and fifteen packages; while hundreds of small articles of food and clothing, and thousands of papers and tracts, are not enumerated.

2d. *Our Collections*, which, in the four months of this year, have exceeded those of any previous year, and amount to,

Cash,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$73,667,11
Stores and Publications,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,210,00
Total,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$88,877,11

At the rate our donations were pouring in, had the war continued during the year, we should have received a quarter of a million of dollars.

3d. *Our work for our Returned Soldiers.* At the close of the war we were daily besieged by a small army of our brave men, hundreds of whom reached our city, *en route* for every part of the East and North-west, often without a dime to pay for fare or meals, often sick, and frequently on crutches; while hundreds more had returned to our own state, and were without employment. We established a *Bureau of Employment*, and furnished transportation and money for meals, to those who were to go on; beds and rest for the sick and weary. We also secured, during the last six months, over *twelve hundred situations* and places of employment, to returned soldiers who remained in our own city and state. It is but just to say, that the Sanitary Commission have aided in paying the expenses of the Bureau, but all moneys for transportation, meals, &c., have been paid by us. We have also extended aid to some of our hospitals, for care of sick soldiers, and also for the widows and children of those who have fallen.

We co-operated with Gen. Fisk in maintaining a "*rear guard*"

of the Commission at Nashville, after our regular work there had ceased.

Having sent four permanent delegates to Texas, and wishing to have the work there continue as long as possible, we were obliged to discontinue co-operating in the general work on the 1st of December, that we might be able to sustain our noble band of laborers in that far-off field; and have notified them to remain and draw on us for supplies until our funds are exhausted, or the restless people upon our South-western border shall be nestled to repose, under the protecting wing of our National Eagle, and the last soldier of our glorious Volunteer Army has reached his home. We may not omit the cheering news from our delegates, Rev. Jeremiah Porter and wife, at Brownsville, and Mr. H. R. Towne, at Ringgold, that the same revival spirit that has followed wherever the Christian Commission has labored, is now manifest in their meetings, and many are enlisting under the banner of King Emmanuel.

In closing, we rejoice that we have been privileged to send you so many reports since we began our meetings, in Camp Douglas, on the 1st of June, 1861, and were permitted to send the *first* delegates to the battle-field. We regret that this last report will not include the *final* labors with the army in Texas. But the record, *on high*, will be perfect, and we shall be permitted to rejoice, not only with those who have been spared to return, but with many who, on the field of battle,

"Were lulled to sleep at the tattoo of death,  
And waked by the reveille of angels;"

and above all, with HIM, in whose name we went forth, and in whose strength we have conquered. We thank HIM, that we have been permitted, in this service, to bear the cross, that we might wear the crown, to share the labors and honor, the work and the reward, the conflict and the *Peace*, of the United States Christian Commission.

B. F. JACOBS, *Secretary*.

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#### St. Louis Branch Report for 1865.

On account of its favorable position as a base of military operations, this Branch has been the great distributing agent of the United States Christian Commission in the valley of the Mississippi.

We have had therefore a two-fold work, the collection of stores and funds by our own agents, and the disbursement of appropriations by the Central Office, and the Branch Offices at Peoria, Chicago, Detroit and Milwaukee, making our duties arduous and complicated; but we are grateful to God for the privilege of attempting to meet these increased responsibilities.

In no year of the rebellion has our work been greater, and the sudden close of the war for a time increased, rather than diminished it. St. Louis has been crowded during the year with soldiers on their way from the Eastern army to the "Plains" and Texas. Many thousands of our boys from the Southern prison pens were sent here *en route* for home, and very many to die in our Hospitals. Since the close of hostilities, we have suffered from a lack of co-operation on the part of the people, from the current impression that our work was ended, and no more funds needed. Hence we have for the last six months labored without that public sympathy so cheering and important in fulfilling the trust committed to our care.

We felt that the same principles of benevolence and patriotism which called the Christian Commission into existence, demanded a continuance of its work, while two hundred thousand veteran troops were retained in the field, and in this decision we have been sustained by the other branches of the Commission.

The Sanitary Commission found, when too late, that they had been premature in closing, but they may have been solaced by the view which the Secretary of the Illinois State Sanitary Commission expressed to the Ladies' Aid Society of Quincy. "In leaving the field we felt that there remained the Christian Commission, who possessed the entire confidence of the country, and would bring all their resources to the great work of supplying the soldiers till they were finally mustered out."

The officers of the Illinois State Sanitary Commission voted us two thousand dollars. The "Needle Pickets," and "The Good Samaritans" of Quincy, gave each five hundred dollars. The ladies of Alton raised over one thousand dollars. The ladies of Muscatine, Iowa City and Davenport, responded generously to our appeals, with cash and sanitary stores for our soldiers in Texas and on the Plains.

Wherever our agent presented the wants of men still in the field, hearty and cordial aid was extended.

Early last spring it was seen that a large force would be sent to

our Western Plains, extending over ten Territories. The Committee at once determined to follow these thirty thousand men with delegates and stores. Rev. W. J. Gladwin, was placed at Fort Leavenworth, as Field Agent. This became the base of operations, from which were sent supplies to the men, hundreds of miles west.

At Fort Leavenworth a chapel-tent was erected, and opened for daily services. Rooms were given and fitted up by the government for our stores and delegates' quarters. Soldiers going out were furnished with Testaments, reading matter and stationery; while returning regiments gratefully received the vegetables which proved so efficacious in arresting and relieving scurvy.

Hundreds during the summer months brought into the Hospitals, gave a large field of labor, and vast numbers of soldiers in camp were in reach of the Commission at the Fort, thus affording a large work for willing hearts and hands.

A wonderful work of grace has crowned this enterprise. Many hundreds have joined the Temperance League, and become members also of the Church Union, giving good evidence of a change of heart and life.

The history of the Mission at Fort Leavenworth during the past nine months would make one of the most interesting chapters of the Christian Commission work.

The Illinois troops reporting at Camp Butler, seven miles from Springfield, for mustering out, and the sick from Camp Douglas, sent to the same place, rendered it important to station a delegate at that point. Much good has been the result, and the Rev. Mr. Branch and the Rev. Mr. Shearer, have been blessed in their labors both for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the men. There were at times over two thousand men either waiting to be mustered out, or sick in Hospitals here.

A very important work at Cairo, supported by the Peoria Branch, and conducted under their general supervision, has continued through the year.

Our chapel and commodious reading-room have given welcome to thousands who had no other alternative between the streets and the drinking saloons, as a place of resort during the many hours of waiting transportation.

The meal tickets bearing the stamp of the Commission, and

good for a warm dinner at hotels, on any line of road running out of Cairo, have saved many soldiers from hunger.

Probably in no exposure of camp or campaign, is a soldier more likely to be found destitute, than when passing by boat or rail to or from his command.

It is the "poverty of our armed men," and the "want of one that travelleth" combined. An illustration of the fitness of such a mode of relief is found in a telegram from a landlord at Centralia: That fifty soldiers had failed to get tickets in passing Cairo, and were cold, hungry and penniless. The Cairo Commission by the reply "feed them," made this squad as comfortable and thankful as it had thousands of other soldiers by its meal tickets.

The field agent has since met at their own homes some of those who received this benefaction, and has found proof of grateful hearts in ready contributions for soldiers still under arms. The labors at Cairo will not be finished so long as troops remain in Texas and the south-west.

Memphis continued in the charge of Rev. T. G. Ensign, until August 1st, when he was succeeded by Rev. E. O. Tade, who remained until the closing of that station, October 1st.

This post has been for more than three years one of great interest and success, and, in addition to the work of delegates, has been greatly aided by ladies, both in visiting the sick and superintending the special diet kitchen.

Vicksburg became a peculiar point of interest last spring, when over eight thousand men from rebel prisons were detained here some weeks for exchange.

Poor, wretched, naked, in need of all things, they elicited the warmest sympathies of a soldier-loving people. In addition to the stores furnished by our Commission, ladies came from Quincy, Illinois, to distribute personally six tons of stores, and although to many aid came too late, and hundreds reached the Hospitals in St. Louis only to die, multitudes were cheered and blessed, not only by the bodily comforts received, but by the kind and sympathizing words of welcome which met them on every hand. Paper was given them, and here the first letters written to home friends for many long months, afforded them a new pleasure, while a few days later at Benton Barracks, could be seen men gathered in groups sending

their replies—some bringing joy, and others grief at news of death by the fireside.

It was a scene to melt the hardest heart, and to impress more vividly than ever the price of our new-bought liberty. Natches continuing to be occupied by our delegates, an important work has been done in the Hospitals, and the colored troops stationed here would have received little attention, if our Commission had been closed.

So far, the interior, with its twenty thousand troops in the State, presented an open field. At that point there were at one time, during the service, nine hundred sick in Hospitals, while Pine Bluff, Durall's Bluff and Fort Smith, likewise demanded our attention. It was a very sickly and trying season for all, but the delegates remained at this point, and were abundantly blessed for their self-denying toil and suffering.

Many hundreds date the commencement of their new spiritual life to the fidelity of delegates at Little Rock. A diet kitchen, under the direction of Mrs. Bonney and Miss Edwards, has been in full operation during the year.

Texas, during the summer, fall and winter, has demanded heavy expenditures of money, stores and delegates. From thirty to fifty thousand men wanted to know, after they reached that distant point, one thousand five hundred miles further from home, if they were to be forsaken by both Sanitary and Christian Commissions. They went reluctantly, hoping to be mustered out. They found the Rio Grande utterly destitute of fruits and vegetables. The interior of the State was little better. Many of them had the scurvy when they left the eastern army. Their rations were often wormy bread three years old, and tainted meat. No money with which to purchase necessary food—scurvy made fearful ravages. Officers and chaplains wrote most urgently for help, and the appeals were quickly answered by our Commission. Two delegates with a large supply of hospital stores, generously furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission, went down while the army was in the midst of the sickly season. Officers and men were suffering from Dungle or Backbone fever.

At New Orleans, Rev. Mr. Orange and his good wife, received a cordial welcome from Gen. Sheridan, and were furnished transportation by land and water to the army scattered over the vast regions

of Texas, from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Thus, stores brought to camp were like cold water to thirsty souls. The sick in the Hospital had nothing but army rations for well men. Reading matter was received with the greatest eagerness. Their chapel tent was well attended by those who had learned to appreciate such spiritual privileges in former campaigns. Soon after this, we secured the services of John A. Cole, former General Field Agent in the Eastern army, and from that time he has been managing the work in Texas, under the direction of our Committee.

No effort of the Christian Commission during the war has been more needed, or made a happier impression on our soldiers. Little has been said or published, but much has been done and duly appreciated by men so far removed from home. A good work of grace has followed this care for their bodies. The work in Texas will be continued by this Branch of the Commission so long as it is demanded by the presence of troops.

One element of usefulness brought into service, has been the employment of earnest Christian ladies, in our reading rooms in this city, at Fort Leavenworth, Benton Barracks, Jefferson Barracks, Memphis and Little Rock, and also in the hospitals and barracks at these stations.

Their labors were most efficient and satisfactory, and often have they been able to reach the heart and conscience when the efforts of others failed.

Their record is on high, but a vast number of our returned prisoners—our veteran soldiers, and thousands still in the service will not soon forget such names as the Misses McBeth, Burnell, Turner, Hone, Bissell, Lorings, Pinney, Tannehill, Kimball, Sprague, Bernard, Hardenbrook, Mrs. Orange, and Mrs. Searles.

The idea of a diet kitchen in a large hospital, controlled by the surgeon as a part of his hospital, and mainly supplied by the hospital fund, but superintended by Christian ladies, sent and supported by the Commission, and specially charged to put the touch and taste of home in each dish prepared for a sick man, was a happy conception.

It was the gospel of suitable food, and has saved life and brought new heart to many a weary cot. This work was under the general superintendence of Mrs. A. Wittenmyer, assisted in this department by Miss Mary Shelton and Miss Goodale, who, by their su-



pervision and personal labors, endeavored to prepare food at the hospitals as nearly like home comforts as possible. It was a gospel of suitable food for sick men, which has saved many valuable lives, and relieved a vast amount of suffering.

The work at the rooms, in St. Louis, will hardly be conceived, from the statement that nearly \$100,000, in cash, and about the same amount, in stores, was received and disbursed during the year. The Committee met every Monday evening, but were ever ready to respond to the frequent calls by the Secretary and Agent, J. H. Parsons, Esq., to consult, in extra meetings, for the best advancement of the work.

The mere financial and business department was equal to a first-class business house, demanding five or six assistants; all the members of this Committee were business men, yet no important measure suffered for the want of their personal attention. The rooms, for months together, were crowded, from morning till night, by soldiers, with their various wants. Daily prayer-meetings were held, letters, from three to five thousand per week, were written, library books loaned, and, as far as possible, each desire answered.

A tabular view of the receipts, and some of the more common disbursements from this office, will give a clearer idea of the daily round of duty:

## DISTRIBUTIONS.

Bibles,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,748
Testaments,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89,649
Hymn Books,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,542
Knapsack Books	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	460,086
Bound Volumes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28,743
Magazines,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,935
Pages Tracts,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	808,703
Papers,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,024,912
Letter Paper (sheets,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	619,040
Envelopes,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	644,000
Pickles (bbls,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Onions, "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500
Potatoes, "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Fruit (cans,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Condensed Milk (cans,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200
Eggs (doz.,)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300

Handkerchiefs,	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Towels,	-	-	-	-	-	6,000
House-wives,	-	-	-	-	-	20,000

Cash receipts, during the year, were	-	-	-	\$84,560 55
Received from the Central and Branch offices,	-	-	-	48,345 00
Collected by this Branch,	-	-	-	35,248 55

Of this latter, nearly \$12,000 were collected by the Field Agent, Rev. S. Wells, in less than nine months' service.

The work at Benton Barracks, in this city, superintended by Rev. A. G. McCormick, has been one of unusual interest and success.

Meetings could not be held in the chapel for want of room. One to two thousand gathered in the open air for night preaching, and hundreds rose for prayers. In the morning they came to the reading-room to ask how to be saved. Many, very many, gave good evidence of true conversion.

The lady "helpers," and all the delegates, will ever remember those pleasant and profitable meetings at Benton Barracks, continued for more than six months.

At Jefferson and Scofield Barracks, the delegates received evident tokens of the Divine blessing.

Our relations have been most pleasant with the Western Sanitary Commission, of this city, during the war. Within the last year they have placed in our hands many thousand dollars worth of stores for distribution in the field.

The St. Louis Ladies' Union Aid Society has co-operated most heartily with us in all good work for soldiers.

The railroads have given free passes for our delegates; the river steamers have carried at half fare; and Adams Express Company and the Western and American, have contributed most generously in free freight for our packages.

To the Government officials of this city, and to the commanders at Leavenworth, Memphis, Little Rock, Vicksburg, and in Texas, we desire to express our profound gratitude for continued and very important official countenance and aid.

How long the Branch will continue its labors, for the welfare of the soldiers now in the field, will be left to the providence of God, and an ability to meet current expenses. It is a matter of devout

thanksgiving to God, that thus far we have not been compelled to give up any important point or station where our labors were needed.

We are grateful to the God of nations, that we have seen, during this year, the triumphant close of the fearful struggle; but especially that we have been able to lay this feeble tribute of our deep interest in our soldiers, and devotion to our Government, on the altar of Christ and country.

By order of the Committee.

SHEPARD WELLS, *Field Agent.*

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### **Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific.**

EXTRACTS FROM THEIR REPORT, RENDERED AT PUBLIC MEETING IN  
SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 7, 1865.

A year ago, to-day, a small band of ladies met together in this city, to listen to the appeals made in behalf of the suffering soldiers and sailors of our army and navy, by the Rev. Dr. Patterson and Rev. Mr. Mingins.

The question was asked, what can the women of California do for those men who are giving up all to save our country? Immediately and most nobly was that appeal responded to: the question was not asked in vain; in a very few weeks, a "Fair" was gotten up, which, for size, beauty and elegance, compared most favorably with the fairs held in the larger cities of the East, and brought into the treasury \$26,096 in gold.

During that fair, the ladies of California proved to every one that such a work could be gotten up and carried out successfully, producing much good, yet free from all objectionable features.

The Commission now numbers 260 members—50 life, 39 honorary, 162 annual, and 3 associate members.

Sixteen Commissions have been organized on the Coast, which are auxiliary to the "Ladies' Christian Commission of the Pacific," from which we have received regular monthly contributions.

Most of the towns are very small, and in bearing this in mind, one cannot but feel more admiration for the untiring devotion, energy and perseverance of the women of California.

Total amount of gold coin remitted to the United States

Christian Commission,	-	-	-	-	-	\$34,180 00
Amount of legal tender notes,	-	-	-	-	-	613 25

We have received acknowledgments from Mr. Stuart of the receipt of \$25,000 in gold coin, which realized \$54,200 in currency. We have not, as yet, received acknowledgments of the net proceeds of our other remittances. Cash balance on hand, \$1,208 42.

Our acknowledgments are due to the *Bulletin, Alta, Call* and *Flag* newspapers, for donations of bills, and to Messrs. Towne & Bacon for valuable printing, for which no charge was made.

An important and pleasant feature of our organization has been the formation of a Youths' Christian Commission. This has met with decided success throughout the coast. The little ones seem delighted with their certificates of membership, which they treasure with pride, exhibiting them as a proof that their little hands and hearts were interested in the suffering soldiers, and that they had done what they could for their country.

We have received instructions from the United States Christian Commission to disband our organization. There is no longer a necessity to tax the generosity of our people. The terrible war, which has produced so much suffering and desolated so many homes, is over. We thank God that this is so; we rejoice over the peace and prosperity which is again promised our people.

MARY E. KEENEY, *President.*

#### Committee for Western New York—Buffalo.

This Branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized in the spring of 1864, for the purpose of developing more fully the resources of Western New York and North-western Pennsylvania.

The entire amount of cash and supplies received by this Branch, and reported to it by auxiliaries, reaches the sum of \$115,725 11.

It has been a privilege for the officers who have, with one exception, furnished their time and services gratuitously, to labor in this department, in co-operation with others, for the good of the noble men who have perilled life in our behalf.

We have worked in harmony and co-operation with the Ladies' Christian Commission of Buffalo. Our supplies, when received, were immediately passed into their hands to assort, and repack, if necessary, and send to the field. Justice requires us to say we are largely indebted to their earnest, patient and long-continued labors for the success realized in Western New York. Many of these ladies have spent a large part of their time, month after month, in patient toil for the relief of the suffering soldier. We commend to the reader's attention their report, found in the following pages.

We have employed, for brief periods, three agents, who have canvassed portions of the territory embraced in this Branch. During the last summer, Rev. C. P. Lyford, who had had large experience in army life, spent a few weeks lecturing in some of the principal towns and cities. Early in the spring, we also employed Rev. G. De La Matyr and Rev. P. H. Burghardt. These agents labored efficiently until Lee's surrender, when their services were no longer demanded. We are under many obligations to various parties and corporations, for favors which have contributed largely to our success. The American and United States Express Companies, the Merchants' Despatch, and the Buffalo and State Line Railroad, have generously carried our supplies to the field, and the Western Union Telegraph Company has uniformly sent and received our messages, free of charge. We are also under obligations to the New York Central Railroad, for passes furnished delegates and agents. The Erie Railway passed our delegates at half-fare. And finally, we are indebted to the great Christian public in this field, in whose behalf we have acted, for the confidence reposed in us, and the privilege afforded us, of co-operating in a work which has been crowned by Providence with such glorious success. We are proud of the history of the Christian Commission, and feel honored with the privilege of contributing something of our time and services in its behalf. We congratulate our co-laborers on the honorable termination of so terrible a war. The necessity of maintaining our organization ceases with the return of peace.

It will be seen that the Treasurer reports a balance now in bank. This amount is subject to the order of the Central office, and with

its transmission our books will be balanced, and our work, in connection with the Christian Commission, ended.

F. GRIDLEY, *Treasurer.*

S. HUNT, *Secretary.*

JOHN D. HILL,  
I. S. SPENCER,  
R. B. CLAXTON,  
S. S. JEWETT,  
P. P. PRATT,

*Executive Committee.*

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#### **Ladies' Christian Commission, of Buffalo.**

The Ladies' Christian Commission, of Buffalo, present this, their second annual and final Report, to those who have so generously sustained them in their work.

Although our work, at times, has been somewhat severe, and has interfered with other and pressing duties, yet we have regarded it as a privilege, instead of a burden, to furnish such aid and comfort to our sons and brothers as would lessen the terrible suffering of the battle-field and hospital. We have endeavored to merit the confidence which the public in Western New York have reposed in us.

While our treasuries have been kept distinct, we have worked in harmony with the Branch of the Christian Commission for Western New York, in receiving and shipping supplies to the field. In this respect our work has been one.

We wish to acknowledge our obligations to the American and United States Express Companies, and Merchants' Despatch, for their generosity and kindness in carrying our supplies to the field, free of charge. They have also taken the garments, cut by us, to our auxiliary societies, and returned them, when made, without any expense to us. This generosity has contributed largely to our success.

Besides the work of sending supplies to our soldiers, we have had the privilege of aiding in other departments. We have sent from our rooms, and forwarded from other societies, large quantities of clothing for white refugees, by which much suffering has been relieved.

In November, 1864, we sent about two thousand pounds of poultry, pies, cake, pickles, apples and jellies, for a thanksgiving dinner, to some of our famished prisoners, just arrived at Annapolis, Md.

We tender our sincere thanks to the many societies which have aided us in this noble work. Among the most prominent and successful of our auxiliaries, we may name the Soldiers' Aid Society, of Syracuse, and the Ladies' Christian Commission, of Lockport; the latter has not only contributed largely of its own services and means, but has been a channel through which many contributions from Niagara county were sent to us. Others have doubtless worked as faithfully in more limited circles, and all are worthy of commendation.

We are thankful, both to a kind Providence and our brave soldiers, that the long and bloody war is now ended. The public will decide with what success our work has been accomplished.

MRS. F. GRIDLEY,  
MRS. J. D. SAWYER,  
MRS. J. B. PARKE,

*Committee.*

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### **Report of the Indiana Branch, United States Christian Commission.**

The record of this branch, since our last report, embraces only about one-half of the year 1865, as our work was brought to a close on the 20th of July. The meeting of western branches, held in this city, near the close of last year, had a most favorable influence in our city and State. The design of the organization became more widely known and better understood. As a consequence, contributions of money, and especially of stores, through the local Aid Societies came in more freely.

OUR HOME FIELD—Has been a most inviting one. Since the commencement of the war, our city, the Head-Quarters for all State military deposits and its environs, has been like one great encampment.

Here soldiers have been mustered in, drilled, equipped, and sent forward to the field. Here they reported when coming home on furlough, and once more they came dusty and weary, and full of

honors to lay down their arms and receive the approval of the Executive, and the smiles and thanks of grateful citizens. We mention with pleasure the fact that the chaplains of many of these regiments, temporarily here, have shown much interest in our work, and have availed themselves of facilities for doing good offered by the Commission. Among these we would name Rev. L. H. Jameson, who, after leaving his own regiment in consequence of ill health, was, for a short time, chaplain to the Veteran Reserves, at Camp Burnside, and Chaplain Williams of the Forty-Third Indiana stationed at the same quarters. Through the efforts of the former the Commission were enabled to erect a very neat chapel, and distribute much valuable reading. The latter, in addition to Sabbath services for many months, held meetings almost every evening. These were largely attended, and resulted in many tokens of divine favor.

CAMP CARRINGTON.—At this point Rev. James McCoy was employed by the Commission during the closing months of 1864. He continued till about the last of January, 1865, when, in consequence of exposure in the diligent discharge of his duties, he was suddenly smitten down and called to his reward. In personal intercourse with the men, and preaching the Word of Life, he took great delight in pointing them to the Saviour of sinners. As a most faithful Christian, we pay this brief tribute to his memory.

Rev. William Wilson, was in the service of the Commission some five weeks. By his kind, genial manner, and earnest Christian spirit, he rendered himself highly acceptable to the soldiers and the Commission.

Rev. Francis P. Monfort, began his labors last year, and continued till our work closed in the summer. His experience as a delegate of this branch in the army of the Potomac; his fondness for the work, and his spirit of adaptation to the wants of the men, gave him ready access to them and great influence over them. We cannot in this brief space enumerate these labors, nor can we fully realize their value.

Some attention has been bestowed upon *The Soldier's Home*, established as a place of rest and refreshment for soldiers *in transitu*, and for those temporarily unfit for active labor; also upon *Ekin Barracks*, the head-quarters of the Provost Guard, and the *City Hospital*. This part of the home field has not properly come within



the sphere of the Commission, as it has been in special charge of Rev. Mr. Eddy, the worthy chaplain of this post, who has most heartily co-operated in all our work.

Repeated applications were made directly to the Secretary of War for access to the prisoners at *Camp Morton*, but without success, until just previously to their release in the spring, we were permitted to supply them with Testaments.

Some *Libraries*, furnished by our Commission were placed in our *City Hospital*, Soldier's Home, Camps Carrington and Burnside, and Ekin Barracks. The Hospitals at Madison, Jeffersonville and New Albany, were aided in fitting their chapels as places of worship, and with the one at Evansville were provided with stationery. It has been our aim to supply all the troops coming here with the Word of God. This we have been enabled to do through the liberality of the Female Bible Society of this city. The great demand for reading, we have been able in some degree to meet by the papers and small books generously sent us from the Central office, and occasionally from the branch at Cincinnati, together with those provided with our own funds. Our distribution of writing paper and envelopes has been large. No gifts have been more acceptable to the soldier. Clothing and other necessary articles have also been generously given.

The rooms of the Commission were daily visited by soldiers, some to get clean shirts, towels or socks; some for books or papers, or to write letters to their friends. Most of the aid rendered to points beyond our own State, has been within the field assigned us, the department of the Cumberland. Supplies have chiefly gone to Louisville, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Small quantities to St. Louis, Arkansas, Vicksburg and Texas. From the beginning of the year till we closed in July, we distributed eleven thousand *Testaments*, nearly twenty-five thousand *books* of other kinds; twenty thousand *papers* and *pamphlets*, one hundred and seventy-five reams of *paper*, fifty-four thousand *envelopes*, collected nearly ten thousand dollars in cash, more than one hundred and fifty boxes of stores, estimated at a value of thirteen thousand dollars; distributed five hundred boxes of stores, and sent to the field eleven delegates. Having previously depended upon appeals through the press, and the efforts of returned delegates in the collection of *money* and *stores*, we wished to employ more direct, and as we hoped ef-

ficient means for this object. We therefore sent forth in this work Revs. Hiram Gillmore and W. W. Snyder. These brethren succeeded in gathering funds and supplies from many sources, and in awakening new life in the cause by the formation of Ladies' Christian Commissions. About fifty auxiliaries were formed, many of these began quite early to aid us, and all were preparing to do so with new zeal, when the prospect of peace dawned upon our land. The feeling prevailed at once among the people, that our work was done, and from the cessation of hostilities, our receipts began to diminish.

Our friends in their joy did not reflect that even then, our hospitals were crowded with sufferers, and that months must elapse before the soldiers could return. Unable to send supplies to distant points, we continued our home efforts as long as seemed necessary. We might add much, gathered from our home experience, from the reports of our delegates, and the letters of soldiers in testimony of the priceless value of these Christian labors: myriad voices may speak their praise, but their full results eternity alone can reveal.

We desire in closing, most devoutly to render thanks to Him who prompted the hearts of the people to this noble charity. We willingly record the cheerful and harmonious labors of this branch of the Commission.

We would also express our grateful acknowledgments to the kind friends here and throughout the State, who have made us the medium of their liberal offerings to the soldiers; to the gentlemen of the press, that have given us the use of their columns, to the express and railroad companies that have favored us with transportation, and trust that they rejoice with us in having contributed something to the comfort and welfare of the brave men who perilled their life and limb for the salvation of their country.

In behalf of the Commission,

CHARLES N. TODD,

*Corresponding Secretary.*

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#### **Report of the New York Branch of the Christian Commission.**

At the opening of the year 1865, The New York Branch of the Christian Commission found the work upon its hands vastly in-

creased. General Sherman, with his veteran legions, was within the field assigned to its operations. Upon reaching the seaboard, his army was met by delegates with stores of every description, to supply the necessities of the men. His rapid movements through the Carolinas devolved upon the Commission the necessity of the utmost promptness and energy of action. Providentially, the delegates on the ground had been long in the service of the Commission, and were well qualified to meet the emergency. Their plans were maturely formed, and every thing was carried into effect in the most systematic manner.

Notwithstanding the greatly increased demands, and the limited field of supplies, the contributions of money and of stores were such as to enable the Committee at all times to meet promptly the necessities of the case. It should be recorded as an evidence of God's favor, that the Committee were never prevented from doing what seemed desirable, for the want of means.

During the year, or until the close of the war, the forts, camps, naval and military hospitals in New York, and in the surrounding neighborhoods and towns, and the ships of war with their transports, leaving the Navy Yard of Brooklyn, were regularly visited, and systematically supplied with reading matter, and such other things as were needed.

The general division of the field of operations into distinct departments remained as during the preceding year.

The Department of Eastern Virginia continued under the most faithful, economical and efficient administration of the Rev. E. N. Crane. His long service and large experience eminently fitted him for the labors and responsibilities which were devolved upon him as the agent of that Department. He had a thoroughly trained band of delegates associated with him through whose agency the work was carried on in all parts of the field.

The Department of North Carolina was during the early part of the year under the supervision of the Rev. A. S. Lovell. In the spring, he was succeeded by the Rev. Washington Rodman. As Newbern, Raleigh, Goldsboro', and Wilmington were within this Department, a vast amount of labor was devolved upon the Agent and the delegates. Besides the demands of the armies in the field, there were numerous hospitals crowded with the sick and wounded, needing all kinds of relief. In no part of the field of operations

was more hard work done, and more needed assistance rendered, than in this Department.

The Department of the South remained, till the close of the war, under the care of the Rev. Dwight Spence, to whose good judgment and constant attention the success of the work was largely due.

The Department of the Gulf continued in charge of Dr. J. V. C. Smith. The medical knowledge of Dr. Smith, and his eminent administrative abilities, peculiarly fitted him for his most responsible position. For two years and more he conducted the affairs of his department to the great benefit and comfort of the Military and Naval forces within its limits. He was ably seconded by a corps of twenty or more veteran delegates.

The numerous stations within these several Departments were kept well supplied with Bibles, Testaments, Prayer-books, religious newspapers, and a large and carefully selected assortment of small books and tracts. On an average, some two hundred and forty ships were supplied monthly with reading matter. At times, the number of periodicals sent out from the New York office amounted to from one hundred and sixty thousand to two hundred thousand copies per month. The testimonies to the usefulness of this part of the work have been most abundant and positive.

In the month of June, the war being virtually closed, the Committee gave directions to the several Agents in charge of Departments to bring their operations to a close as rapidly and at as early a day as practicable. These directions were systematically carried out, so that in November the Executive Committee were enabled to report to the General Board that every delegate was withdrawn—every agency closed, and every account settled.

The balance of funds in the treasury was placed in the hands of the Executive Committee, to use for the relief of soldiers and sailors, and their families, and for the temporal and spiritual benefit of those still in the service of their country.

In thus bringing their work to a close, and rendering their final report, the New York Committee would express their profound gratitude to Almighty God for his continued favor and goodness, and for the degree of success with which he has been pleased to crown their efforts.

**Committee of Maryland—Report for 1865.**

REV. E. P. SMITH, SEC'Y U. S. C. C.

DEAR SIR:—In compliance with your request, the following report of the Committee of Maryland of the U. S. C. C., is prepared. The report covers the year of 1865, from January to January. In September, 1864, the Committee received additional names of several gentlemen of Maryland, and commenced the year as follows:

G. S. Griffith, Esq., Chairman, Baltimore.

Rev. Geo. P. Hayes, Treasurer, “

Rev. J. N. McJilton, D. D., Sec'y, “

Rev. N. Stork, D. D., “

Rev. Isaac P. Cook, “

Chas. W. Ridgely, Esq., “

Rev. B. C. Galbraith, Baltimore Co.

Gideon Bantz, Esq., Frederick City.

Rev. Robert H. Williams, “ “

Rev. J. D. Custis, Elkton.

Rev. J. Evans, Hagerstown.

Rev. H. C. Westwood, Ellicott's Mills.

David E. Small, Esq., York, Pa.

Chas. A. Morris, Esq., “ “

Rev. G. R. Bent, General Agent, Baltimore.

J. R. Miller, General Field Agent, Harper's Ferry.

At the date of the last report, the hospitals of the district comprising the whole of Maryland, part of Delaware, York in Pennsylvania, and the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, numbered twenty-three. In these, and in the camps and forts around Baltimore, and along the lines of railroad, and among the soldiers and prisoners at Annapolis, and in the valley of the Shenandoah, and in the armies operating against Richmond, have our delegates labored.

**DELEGATES.**

The number of delegates commissioned by us to labor at these points is twenty-seven. They were principally clergymen of the various evangelical denominations. These gentlemen left their homes and home services, to do the work of relief among their suffering countrymen of the contending armies, not forgetting that

the civil war had brought into sanguinary conflict the citizens of the same States and the brothers of the same families. They performed their Samaritan-like service without inquiring if the sufferer were a soldier of the federal or the rebel army.

In beautiful harmony, the ministers of the different denominations met, and worshipped, and mingled services together over afflicted men. In the performance of their labor, whether of worship, or relief, their denominational associations were unknown. They preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to suffering and dying men. They bound up bleeding wounds. They waited at the bedside of the sick. They administered the consolations of religion to the sick and wounded, without referring to their denomination. Many of these delegates wrought for weeks and months together, without knowing each other's denominational associations, and were instrumental in the salvation of many souls.

#### ADDRESSES AND SERMONS.

Five thousand, six hundred and twenty addresses and sermons were delivered by our delegates and the volunteer helpers of the Young Men's Association, in the progress of four thousand, four hundred and forty meetings. Many of these meetings were held in the presence of very large congregations. Two and three thousand men have sometimes attended with earnest interest upon the services. That good results have followed these efforts, many proofs have been afforded. Thousands of men who went into the army, either as infidels, or utterly indifferent believers in Christian doctrine, have been converted to an earnest and active Christian life. A large number have been baptized, and partaken of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

In our soldiers' meetings the narratives of converted men have been given, in which God's merciful providence is wonderfully displayed. The man that left his home for army adventure, a swearer, or a drunkard, has been returned to it a devout and sober Christian believer. He has gone home to tell of his almost miraculous escapes from danger, of God's gracious providence in his deliverance and conversion, and to live among his friends and former associates, a standing witness of the power and grace of Almighty God, upon the mind and heart of the infidel and apostate.

## LABORERS, OTHER THAN DELEGATES.

Beside our regularly laboring delegates over the wide field of Christian service allotted us, fifty-nine gentlemen have wrought with us in the labors of the hospitals, and among the families of the sufferers at home. This form of our service is in many respects similar to that of delegates amid the army service. It consists in visiting forts, hospitals, camps, and the families of the soldiers. Relief is afforded, as found necessary. Books, tracts, and papers of religious character are distributed. Meetings are held, and religious services performed.

## HOSPITAL STORES.

Our agents and delegates in the field and at home have been well supplied with hospital stores. Our efforts in this direction have always been successful. When our resources have seemed to be failing, we have taxed our inventive powers and increased our labors, and in this way have always been able to make the necessary provision. Under the direction and blessing of a kind Providence we have been abundantly favored. The supply called for has always been provided and sent. Like the widow's meal and oil, our supply has never failed. When there was little there was no lack, and when there was an abundant supply there was nothing over.

## CHAPELS AND CHAPEL SERVICES.

We have expended a portion of our means in the provision of chapels and chapel tents for religious services at hospitals and in camps. The amount thus used was comparatively small, but great good was accomplished by it. Our part of the expense for these chapels has been generally in the way of supplement and encouragement to expenditure by others. Many meetings for preaching and prayer have been held, and much good has been accomplished that might never have appeared without this help at the right time and place. Many soldiers converted in these chapels have gone home to live Christian lives, or have passed away, rejoicing in the hope of a blissful immortality, leaving the testimony behind them that they were God's children.

## BALTIMORE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Allusion has been made in this statement to the services of fifty-nine gentlemen besides the regularly commissioned delegates of the

Commission. These gentlemen were nearly all members of the Baltimore Christian Association. This association has supplied our service with a large number of laborers since its organization in 1861. During the past year they have visited every department of our district, and the field of labor in which we have served beyond it. Although not a part of our organization, the association became an auxiliary in our service, and so continued until the close of the war. They wrought faithfully with our delegates, and without them. Large quantities of stores, and books, and religious papers were distributed by them. Since the war has closed, they find all the work they can do among the families of the soldiers in Baltimore and its vicinity. There was scarcely a battle-field, or camp, or hospital, within the limits of our district, but shared in the faithful labors of these worthy and able co-laborers of the Commission. And we trust there will not be a soldier's home in Baltimore unvisited by them and unblessed with their ministrations.

#### CLOSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S LABORS.

In accordance with a resolution of the Central organization, our Committee resolved to discontinue its organization in December. The Committee has ceased to exist as an organized body, and another Committee has been appointed to attend to any necessary matters needing attention in the gradual working out of the service. As the Commission that through the war brought Christ to tempted men and relief to human suffering has ceased its labors, the records of the period are full of their sympathies and services. The good they have done may not be told in time. The light of eternity alone can reveal it.

J. N. McJILTON,

*Sec'y Md. Com., U. S. Christian Commission.*

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#### Report of the Army Committee, Washington, D. C.

The accompanying Reports of Alexandria and Camp Distribution, and this city, will sufficiently set forth what the Commission has attempted, during the past year, at those points.

Besides the regular routine of forwarding supplies to City Point, distributed by hundreds of delegates in the Army of the Potomac, and the ordinary work in Alexandria, at Camps Barry and Distri-



bution, and other places in the vicinity, there were some new features introduced into the work of 1865.

First, that of the Diet Kitchen, under the efficient superintendence of Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer. Though a beginning was made the latter part of the previous year, this year the work was greatly improved and extended. We had Diet Kitchens in five of the Washington Hospitals, Finley, Emory, Campbell, Mt. Pleasant and Columbian. From these kitchens, and only from these, rations, as prescribed for each patient by the attending surgeon, were issued to all who were not able to leave their wards and go to the common table. These were all prepared under the direction, and, to some extent, by the hands of the ladies in charge. Whatever was required for the good of the men, in addition to supplies from the Government, by way of clothing and delicacies of various kinds, was freely furnished by the Commission. Thus, besides adding greatly to the comfort of the sick and suffering—giving them the best substitute for home itself—doubtless not a few precious lives were saved. And, in addition to their ministrations to the body, these Christian ladies also visited the men, from cot to cot, cheering them with their presence and sympathy, and conversing with them of Jesus, and of the “rest that remaineth.”

Diet Kitchens, on the same plan, were also introduced into the Hospitals in Alexandria. One did good service in the *field*, in the hospital of the Ninth Army Corps, encamped near Georgetown.

Secondly, *Fort Work*. This year we attempted to do, systematically, throughout the extensive lines of fortifications around Washington, on both sides of the Potomac, what had hitherto been left to a few occasional visitations. Providence brought to our hands, at just the right time, a suitable man, Rev. J. C. Kingsley, to take charge of this entire Department, to organize it thoroughly, and keep all the wheels in motion. He was provided with a horse and carriage, and furnished with all the laborers he required. He established stations at all the more important points, at Fairfax Court-House and Vienna, in Va., for regular preaching, and other delegate work, and perfected arrangements for systematic visitation, preaching, distribution of stores, and reading, throughout the chain of Forts on both sides the river. At some points, there were seasons of precious refreshing, from the presence of the Lord, and many indulged hope.

Thirdly, Loan Libraries. The happy thought of this enterprise, for the benefit of the entire army, was reserved for this closing year of the war. We will only say, in this connection, that quite a large number of these choice libraries, (assorted and put up in cases, at Philadelphia, under the direction of Chaplain J. C. Thomas,) were loaned for use in barracks, hospitals and forts in and around Washington. Nothing could be more gratifying than the thankfulness with which they were received, and the eagerness with which they were read, and the palpably happy effects upon the habits and morals of many of the soldiers. We received written and verbal testimonies to this effect. We have seen the eye fill with tears, as men in charge of the stations have reported to us these things.

Fourthly, Work in the *Returned Armies*.

After Grant's and Sherman's victorious legions had returned to Washington, and encamped, the one on the Virginia side, and the other on the Maryland side of the river, to tarry weeks or months, till they could be "mustered out," we found it necessary to re-organize here a system of work similar to what had been in the lines before Richmond and Petersburg. Accordingly, delegates' tents and chapel tents were set up in the several corps. The delegates went to work here just as they had done in the army in winter-quarters, holding preaching services and prayer-meetings, visiting, systematically, through the regiments, brigades, divisions, talking with the men, and supplying them with religious reading and such hospital stores as were needed. Very large quantities of under-clothing were furnished to Gen. Sherman's men, who had worn out every thing in their long march across the country. Also, large supplies of anti-scorbutics, potatoes and onions by the thousand bushels, and hundreds of barrels of cucumber pickles.

Arrangements were made, in connection with our store-room, for giving dinners, daily, to large numbers of soldiers, visiting the city.

Our work is done. Thanks to a merciful Providence, there is no longer need for it. In all departments of our labor, from first to last, for the good of the soldiers, we were cheered by the gratitude of the men, and by many tokens of the divine approbation. We cannot doubt that many—many thousands—some of whom have passed away, and some of whom are in the walks of usefulness upon earth, were led to the Saviour through the Christian en-

deavors which the noble charities of our supporters enabled us to make in behalf of these patriotic and suffering men.

On behalf of the District Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

WM. BALLANTYNE, *Chairman.*

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**Report of Rev. O. P. Pitcher, Missionary and Distributor for the Commission in Washington.\***

During the earlier part of the year throngs of prisoners and deserters from the dwindling ranks of the Rebel army, poured in upon us. After the fall of Richmond, our own victorious troops with tattered banners came crowding our thoroughfares, homeward bound.

These grand events greatly modified this field of missionary labor. They have furnished many favorable opportunities, not only to preach the gospel to thousands of wretched "conscripts" who had fled from treason's banner, but also to welcome our returning conquerors. Give them words of counsel, and books suited to their transition experience from military to civil life, such as "Mustered Out," "Homeward Bound," "Parting Words," &c.

Although the war has closed, and we listen no more to the martial tread of armed men, bound for scenes of conflict; nor witness the long lines of "convalescents" from the great hospitals directing their steps to "Camp Distribution," to rejoin their regiments in the field. And "Forrest Hall" is deserted of "Deserters," and the Central Guard House is thronged no more with delinquent and disorderly soldiers, and Carroll, and the "Old Capitol," have ceased to swarm with bushwhackers, guerrillas, and prisoners of war, and many great camps about the City have been broken up; and the bosom of the Potomac is no more burdened with floating hospitals, bearing from the sanguinary field to our shores, myriads of sick, wounded and dying heroes, requiring immediate attention,—there still remains at Washington an important field for the Missionary operations of the Young Men's Christian Association.

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\* It should be kept in mind that this is the report of the labor of a single agent.

## SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION AND LABOR FOR THE YEAR.

Copies of Scriptures distributed, - - -	1,618
“ Religious Papers, distributed, - -	40,297
“ Soldiers’ Knapsack Books, distributed, -	4,292
“ Hymn Books, distributed, - - -	448
“ Pamphlets, - - - - -	154
Pages of Tracts, - - - - -	23,668
Number of Religious Services held, - - -	391
Number of those who have given evidence of conversion, or reclamation, or earnestly desiring religion, - - - - -	188
Number of visits to camp and barracks, for prayer with the sick and dying, (not including services) and for distribution of reading, - - -	629
Miles travelled on foot and by street cars, -	1,296

## SUMMARY OF LABOR AND DISTRIBUTION FOR THREE YEARS.

Distributed copies of the Scriptures in various languages, -	28,177
“ “ “ Religious Papers, - - -	155,898
“ “ “ Soldiers’ Hymn Book, - - -	11,855
“ “ “ “ Knapsack Book, - - -	14,451
“ “ “ Pamphlets, - - - - -	935
“ Pages of Tracts, - - - - -	1,773,261
Number of Religious Services held, - - - -	1,498
“ “ Conversions, and of those reclaimed, or earnestly desiring religion, - - - -	587
“ “ Visits exclusive of meetings, - - -	1,181
“ “ Miles travelled in the work, - - -	5,240

Exhortations and conversations at the meetings, and in distributions, personal ministrations to the penitent, suffering and dying, the supply of stationery, and hospital stores, and correspondence, &c., for the soldiers with their friends at home, though constituting a most essential and interesting part, cannot be reported by figures.

Of the many encouraging scenes and incidents occurring in connection with this work, permit me to notice the following:

During the autumn, winter and spring of 1864 and 1865, at one of the regular appointments for more than two years, the Mission Chapel built by the Young Men’s Christian Association, near Camp

Fry, such was the religious interest among a few Christian soldiers, worshipping there, that a series of meetings was kept up nearly all this time. As the result, brother Otis, the librarian, an active co-laborer in this work, informed me, that not less than eighty-five "Veteran Reserves," soldiers from that camp, (Ninth and Tenth Regiments, Veteran Reserve Corps,) had been converted and reclaimed, and proved faithful.

At the close of a service at the "Soldier's Rest," in October 1863, a soldier of the Twentieth New York Cavalry, came to my side, desiring to speak with me. He led me outside the barracks, and pointing to cards scattered, exclaimed in sorrowful tones, "*There is my damnation!* I have been a very wicked man; a swearer, a drunkard, a gambler, and given to other vices, which I will not name, and I fear there is no hope for me. I was gambling when the meeting commenced, but during the services something touched me, I stopped gambling, and threw away my cards, but I fear there is no hope in my case." While he gazed upon the ground with despairing look, I pointed him to Christ.

To describe all the interesting stages of his experience and future course, would require too extended a chapter for this report, suffice it to say, that he turned away from his sins, confessing them before his comrades, and exhorting them to join him in the service of the Lord, found peace in believing—assisted me two weeks afterwards at Camp Stoneman, and so great was his desire to do good, that he offered ten dollars per month of his private's pay to purchase religious reading for the soldiers. In letters received several months afterwards, he assured me he was still holding fast to the Saviour; that daily prayer-meetings were kept up in his Company; that some six or eight of his companions had enlisted with him in religion; and others were almost persuaded.

Permit me, in closing, to give God the glory for these abundant trophies of His grace, and to express the hope that beyond these the silent influences of the Holy Scriptures, and millions of pages of religious reading distributed among more than two hundred thousand men in our army and navy, among whom I have labored, may ripen into many a sheaf of golden grain to be brought by the gathering angels, in the great harvest, to the garner of the Lord.

O. P. PITCHER,

*Missionary Young Men's Christian Association.*

**Report of Rev. O. C. Thompson, Station Agent at Alexandria, Va.**

At the closing of last year's Report of the labors of the Christian Commission at Alexandria, we were in full work at twenty-three hospitals, seventeen forts and camps, and five military prisons.\*

The military prisons of the town filled up the first month of the year, and gave us a very interesting field of labor. The prisoners were mostly held on charges of desertion, and numbered from three to four thousand. The hardened bounty-jumper, the man who had over-stayed his furlough one day at home, or had been detained by imperfect railroad connection, and the perfectly innocent man, picked up by the detective for the sake of \$30, all filed into the prison-barracks together. The condition of these prisoners was deplorably bad. Without a chaplain, with no one to give personal attention to their wants and woes, both guilty and innocent were wretched and desolate. At the request of the Inspector of Prisons, we undertook to stand "next friend" to these outcasts. Their greatest want was that of communication with their friends at home. Some of them were mere boys, who should have been at home under their mother's care.

We were pained to see how large a proportion of these were sons of widows. Many of them were out of respectable families, and some the sons of ministers of the gospel.

When, by paper and pencil, postage-stamps, and often by writing ourselves, we put them in communication with their friends, the return letters brought back to us a shower of blessings. Home-packages for the prisoners began to pour in, and the inquiries and suggestions, and griefs and thanksgivings innumerable, from the distant parents and brothers and wives of these men, made a portfolio of correspondence full of touching interest.

We held divine service in each of the eighteen wards every Sabbath, and distributed religious periodicals every week, in addition to the daily labor of one delegate constantly at work in the prisons. Happy results were manifest, the truths of the gospel came to these men as they never came before. An incident will best illustrate: The last week of our labor in Alexandria, a discharged prisoner, from the "slave pen," came into our rooms to inquire for the man who preached in the "pen" the day before. This soldier was rejoicing in a new hope of forgiveness. "The light had come to

him," he said, during that sermon. "One of your delegates gave me a little book, entitled 'Come to Jesus.' I read it, and re-read it, and could not stop reading it; and then that man came and preached so good! Oh! I thank God that I was put into that horrible place. I was innocent of any charge brought against me, yet this was the way by which I was to be blessed. God meant it for good, and I hope, from the bottom of my heart, He will bless the Christian Commission, as He has blessed me."

A young man, from Andover Theological Seminary, who labored with us in 1864, came out again in 1865, and went to the front, at Petersburg, where he was arrested by a soldier's inquiry, "Do you know me?" "No." "I remember you very well; you preached to us in the prison at Alexandria, last year, and in that preaching my eyes were opened to see the Saviour."

The delegate inquired of his comrade, about the soldier's conduct, and found he was a devoted Christian, holding prayer-meetings often with his fellow-soldiers.

The hospitals were the special field of labor for the Commission at Alexandria. We endeavored to reach every patient once a day, and sometimes twice. The good accomplished in this work can never be told, on this side of the eternal world. To many a dying soldier these acts of Christian sympathy were the last kind tokens of friendship bestowed. Many, who left the hospitals to join their regiments at the front, or the society of their friends at home, feel, and have gratefully acknowledged the timely aid furnished by our delegates, without which they too, as they declare, would have filled a soldier's grave in Alexandria Cemetery. The number of conversions in the hospitals is worthy of notice. Some of the delegates were cheered by being permitted to report ten, and, in one instance, fifteen definite cases of hopeful conversion during their six weeks' labor. In June, Samuel Worelen, a patient in Sickles' Hospital, was led into conversation with a delegate, respecting his condition as a sinner before God. He became greatly agitated and asked the delegate to pray for him, and to pray then. His sins and their consequences, seemed to stare him in the face. He prayed for himself, crying aloud, "O God, have mercy upon me, a wicked, lost sinner!" He cried out so loudly, and in such agony, that he drew to his bedside a large number from the other wards. It was a heart-rending scene. But all at once he ceased crying

for mercy and shouted, "Glory to God! Glory! Glory! Blessed Jesus, O how precious you are! How full of love and compassion! Saved by Jesus! Jesus, how precious! Lovely, lovely!" His look of fear and shame had given place to radiant smiles. He was transfigured before his attendants. The light, into which he came in a twinkling, was as marvellous as the previous darkness had been dreadful. No one would have supposed it in his power to put into language such exultations of joy. He soon commenced praying for his mother and brothers at home, with strong importunity, and seemed to come into rest, as he had in the prayer for his own forgiveness, and the delegate left him calm and full of peace.

During the next interview, the same day, he asked the delegate to pray with him, engaging in the prayer with great earnestness, uttering frequent responses.

Soon after, he fell into a gentle slumber. The next morning, when the delegate called, he learned that the happy spirit had taken its flight, leaving earth in the full triumph of the Christian's faith.

This remarkable conversion produced a deep impression on all who witnessed it, and was the theme of conversation at the Hospital for many days.

About the commencement of the present year, the *Soldier's Rest*, in Alexandria, became the Camp of Distribution for the Army of the Potomac, opening a new and extensive field of labor.

Here we held divine service every evening, and twice on the Sabbath, when the strength of delegates would permit.

On the return of troops from the "front," after the close of the Rebellion, the hill-tops and valleys, in our vicinity, were literally covered with our brave boys. These we endeavored to reach, as far as was in our power, and soon the work became so increased, that a large part of the power and labor of the Christian Commission was concentrated at this point.

The number of delegates who worked with us during the time I was in Alexandria, was one hundred and fifty, most of whom labored their full six weeks. With very few exceptions, they evinced a deep sense of their responsibility, and great devotion to their work.

They came from all our northern evangelical churches, and yet so perfectly were they *one*, that frequently their whole term of ser-



vice would pass without it being known to what denomination they belonged.

Throughout our entire work, we enjoyed the approbation of the surgeons of hospitals, officers in the army, and keepers of the prisons.

The building occupied by the Commission here, was without expense to us.

By the direction of the District Committee, at Washington, we closed our Station on the 21st of August, 1865. The troops had been mostly discharged, and had gone to their homes in the North. The prisoners had been tried and acquitted, or sent to punishment elsewhere. The hospitals were closed with one exception, where less than one hundred patients remained.

Thus closed our department in the labor of ameliorating the sufferings of the heroic defenders of our country in the great rebellion. We would join with all the noble band of our delegates, and with the multitudes of brave soldiers on earth and in heaven, to praise God for putting it into the hearts of His people to establish and sustain the United States Christian Commission.

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#### **Camp Distribution, near Alexandria, Virginia.**

[This report is furnished by Mrs. Rev. J. P. Fisher, the wife and devoted assistant of our lamented brother, the agent in charge of the Commission work at the camp. No other one had a larger part in that blessed work than Mrs. F., a part which she has succeeded in keeping almost entirely out of sight in this sketch. Mention of Mr. Fisher's death is made at the close of this report.]

The work of the United States Christian Commission at Camp Distribution, embraced within its limits Forts Scott, Albany, Camp Casey, (for Colored troops,) Forts Richardson, Berry, Barnard, Reynolds, Battery Garache, and Fort Ward. The six first-named forts, were regular preaching places for the Sabbath, as were also the others, when the preaching force would admit. All were visited during the week with papers, hymn-books and Testaments. As the men at these forts were frequently changed, the number thus reached was very large.

The service in summer was held in open air; in winter, in the barracks, except at Fort Barnard, where the carpenter-shop, nicely swept, and with boards supported on nail-kegs for seats, was for the Sabbath converted into a chapel.

The barracks belonging to these forts, were frequently visited, and soldiers conversed with through the week. Said one to Mr. Fisher, "The people of God will follow us wherever we go." Another, on the way to Fort Ward, in charge of the ordnance, who was a Maltese and a Catholic, would, if passed by, hail the delegate, asking earnestly that he might have the New York Observer, Independent or Messenger.

Delegates returning from service, though weary and heated from summer's sun, or cold and wet from winter's storms, were always refreshed in spirit; and with faces a-glow with pleasure, declared each one, that they had found the most gentlemanly soldiers, the most attentive congregations, the best singing, the warmest thanks, the most cordial invitations to come again.

Camp Distribution was guarded by a regiment of Veteran Reserves. In the camp of the Reserves the Christian Commission had a chapel-tent, where preaching service was held always three evenings in a week, and when practicable, every evening. After preaching, came the prayer-meeting. The work of the Lord at this tent was progressive, persons frequently rising for prayer, and making confessions of penitence and acceptance through atoning blood. Delegates became intensely interested in this regiment and, considered it a field of great promise.

Camp Distribution, itself, comprised fifty barracks. For months, a portion of the barracks, served as a prison for deserters from our own army, and of course was closely guarded. These were objects of special regard, and were furnished with large quantities of stationery, needles, thread and reading. Personal attention given to many who had been arrested on false charges, led to their speedy examination and release.

Early one Sabbath morning, Mr. Fisher, on his way to preach at one of the forts, contrary to his usual method, called at one of these barracks to leave papers. As the guard opened the door, he saw in the further end, a man somewhat advanced in years, with head bowed upon his breast. Stepping in, he exclaimed, "Why, Pilgrim, how came you here?" Instantly the soldier raised his head,

and sadly came forward: "Oh, Mr. Fisher, I was arrested this morning, but indeed I am not a deserter, I belong to a Pennsylvania Regiment. A man with my name and initials, belonging to a New York Regiment, has deserted, and I am arrested." Mr. Fisher went at once to the proper authorities, and identified this man as one who had been in camp nearly three weeks, waiting to be sent to his regiment, and who had daily attended at chapel, taken part in the exercises, and because of his great earnestness and importunity, had been named Pilgrim by his comrades. Upon this representation, Pilgrim was sent to more comfortable quarters for the day, and early next morning released. "Pilgrim" acknowledged God's goodness; said he had been much cast down at the idea of spending God's holy day in such a place, but he had made up his mind to go on self-review, though at first he could scarcely pray.

The camp was one of constant change; sometimes thousands leaving in a week, and their places filled by others also passing, as delegates with haversacks of Testaments and papers sallied out to supply these squads and detachments as they were filing off. I recall one such scene: One Sabbath noon, a regiment was halted in front of our rooms. One of the delegates just returned from preaching went out, and again and again returned for a supply. Dinner being ready, we sat down; quickly we ate, and again he went forth with his supplies. Returning, he said, there is another regiment coming; can't I have something larger for Testaments? Quickly getting a half-bushel basket, we poured the Testaments from the shelf, without stopping to count. The order, "Forward," had already been given, but falling out of rank, eagerly the men caught the book from hand or basket as best they might, those too far in advance calling out, "Take one for me," yes, for me, "and me." Again the basket was filled, and as quickly emptied, many being unable to conceal their disappointment on finding none for them. They were passing, gone, and some were not supplied. As the gray-haired man of sixty-four returned, he lifted up his voice and wept aloud, saying, "I can't help crying, to think I should take time to eat my dinner, and they have gone away hungry for the bread of life."

The interest of the Christian Commission work in the camp centered at the chapel. It would accommodate a thousand worshippers. Here were our prayer-meetings every morning at nine o'clock,

and preaching four evenings in the week, and twice on the Sabbath. The preaching services were preceded by half an hour prayer-meeting. Wednesday evening was given to a temperance meeting, and Saturday evening to a soldier's experience meeting.

The temperance meetings were of great interest and value. An Association was formed by the soldiers themselves early in the war, and kept up through all the changing generations of the camp. Every evening the pledge was offered for signature. Some evenings as many as seventy were added. The roll numbers three thousand seven hundred names. Often the soldiers sent their pledges home; that, as they said, if they fell in battle their friends might know they died sober. The benches under the trees were a favorite resort for soldiers, with paper or book in hand. At early dawn they could be seen absorbed in the perusal of the Word of Life. One morning a young soldier was noticed reading intently, and then bowing his head upon the bench before him. Again he read, tears came down his cheeks, he bowed again. Dear boy, you are thinking of the morning hour of prayer at some far off home altar. Surely a kind word will be in season here. A delegate sits down on the bench, and draws him into conversation. Presently they withdraw, and you hear the voice of prayer. The Word, the blessed memory, the family prayer, perhaps then offering, and the Christian counsel, all blessed of God, have done their work. The young soldier has enlisted again. Meetings were often held under the trees, lighted with lanterns swinging in their branches. Picturesque, solemn and impressive, was the scene. Five hundred, in earnest attention upon the Word, or voices blending in praise. The refrains, "I do believe," "I'm going home," "There'll be no more sorrow there," wafting upon the evening air, arrested attention and attracted careless ones, who gathered around at respectful distance, as if on picket duty, and gradually closed in, scarcely committed, yet wondrously interested. At the close of each service, the invitation to come forward, or rise for prayer, was responded to by from ten to fifty. One evening more than half the congregation rose and went forward, asking the prayers of their comrades. The next day, a soldier writing to his wife, through a delegate's pen, when asked, Any thing more? replied, "Oh, yes, tell her there never was such a meeting as that held last night." I did not know that I would find any Christians in the army, but when I saw two

hundred go forward, I could not believe it. There never was any thing like it before. Tell her we have good religious privileges at this camp. They could not be better." It was the design to close before roll call, but so interested did many become, that they often continued to pray and sing till near midnight. After going to answer to their names and returning, the tattoo, signal for "lights out," was of course obeyed, but the moon and stars, subject only to the King whom they worshipped, still shed their pale light through the branches of the trees. During the fall and winter, the congregation ranged from three to six and seven hundred. Several characteristics deserve mention. They were always punctual, and often waited for the minister before the hour. They were earnestly attentive, no drowsing, or lolling, no standing with cap in hand, in haste for the benediction, but a lingering after it, as if the place were precious. Returning from "chapel tent," we frequently overheard, "I could have staid two hours longer." "Why did they close so early?" "How short it seemed!" The interest increased rather than abated, large numbers rising for prayer. At the prayer and conference meetings, on Saturday evenings, great readiness was manifest. Oftener than otherwise, five or six were rising together to speak, or pray. Forty exercises an hour were not unusual. Prayer was earnest, fervent, penitent, and requests for prayer were many. Here are some of them taken down on the spot.

"I rise to say, not that I desire to be a Christian, but that I *long* to be one. Pray for me."

"I wish to follow my Saviour, I promised my mother I would, but I have not found him. Comrades, pray for me."

"My mother told me to be a good boy, and give my heart to Jesus, but I haven't thought of it. I hope you will pray for me."

"My little daughter gave me this Testament, and begged me to read and pray; her words are ringing in my ear to-night. I wish I was a Christian."

"Somebody said there was a meeting here, and I came down to make fun; but I feel that I'm a great sinner, that there is a reality in religion, and I want to find it. Comrades, I want you to pray for me."

"My brother soldiers, last week I came to meeting, I thought I was sick: I was so heavy I could hardly move. When sinners were

asked to rise for prayer, I felt too sick to get up; but I did rise. That night I found Jesus, and I found it was my sins made me sick and heavy. From the bottom of my heart I can say I am happy. Oh, come to Jesus! I want you all to feel as I feel."

"Three months ago, on that seat, I gave my heart to Jesus. I did love the world, and was happy in its pleasures; but, oh! they are not to be compared to the peace and joy I have felt since I gave my heart to the Saviour. I have been to the front, and when our regiment went into battle, how differently I felt from what I used to when we were fighting. I could not keep the thought out of my mind that I was not ready to die; but now, when the bullets were flying around me, I knew if I fell, I should drop in the arms of Jesus. I would not exchange this hope for worlds."

"I have for years been a Christian, have attended many interesting meetings; but since I have been in this camp, I have enjoyed more of God's presence than ever before. I may safely say that never in my life have I attended meetings before where God seemed to be present every time. I shall soon be mustered out, and go to my family; but I shall leave with regret these precious meetings,—this place of prayer."

"I did not rise for prayer when the invitation was given, but knelt when prayer was offered for others. I feel guilty, and now wish to be included with those who rose. I came to camp last evening, and leave to-morrow morning."

(Prayer was immediately offered for him. After meeting, he came to our quarters for conversation and instruction. The next morning he came to the nine o'clock prayer-meeting, his face glowing in his new love for Christ, and his heart leaping out in thankfulness for the sense of pardon which thrilled his soul. He insisted upon leaving a donation to the Commission—a thank-offering, he said to his Saviour.)

"Soldiers, you do not know what you enjoy. Here you can come and meet with the people of God, and it seems easy to be a Christian; but different influences will surround you at the front. I have been there and know, and so have many of you. Remember this, as a little child in love or in danger clings to his Father's hand, so we must hold on to Jesus;—don't forget, hold on to Jesus."

"My friends, I have been in the service of my country since the war began. Many and many a time in battle when bullets fell so

thick, that it was dangerous for a man to stand up, did I promise the Lord, if he would spare my life, I would give him my heart; but as often I failed to do it. But I bless the Lord, last September, *there* on *that* seat, I gave myself to the Saviour. Since then I have again been in battles, but felt no fear. Oh, what a blessed Saviour to lift us sinners up to His glorious presence! Soldiers, love him; love Him to-day."

"The last words my mother said were, 'My son, if only you were a Christian, I would feel glad to have you go into the army.' Now, my mother is dead. I haven't heard a sermon before to-night since I've been in the army. I want to meet my mother in heaven; will you pray for me?"

"I hear almost all my comrades ascribing their conversion, or their desires to become Christians, to the influence of some friend, a mother or sister. I cannot refer to such. I never heard the voice of my mother in prayer. I never saw any of our family on their knees. When I was thirteen years old, some mysterious influence came over me: I felt I must be a Christian. I yielded to the sweet influence of Jesus, and blessed was the yielding." Sitting down, he sung in clear melting tones, two stanzas, expressive of the joy and peace of a soul washed in the precious blood.

A middle-aged man, with bald head and long white beard, rose, saying, "I want to testify to the great goodness of my God. For years I have been a Christian, but have had no sympathy from my dear wife: she would not kneel with me and my children at the family altar. Bless the good Lord, yesterday I received a letter from her, saying, 'Husband, I have learned to pray, and now I can kneel with you and am praying for you.'" Here his voice broke down, tears ran a stream, and he sank upon his seat, while sobs through the house gave evidence of sympathy and interest.

"My friends, last night I came to this house a sinner. I have been a great sinner, going all lengths in sin; but thanks to His name, last night Jesus came to my heart: this morning I'm so happy.

"My friends, I have been a very wicked man all my life, and especially since I have been in the army; profane, a gambler and a drunkard, whenever I could get any thing to drink. It is a wonder that God let me live. A week ago I was sent to this camp. I heard

your bell ring, and came to see what was going on, and here I have found Jesus. Bless his holy name. I can't sleep at night, I'm so happy. Last night, when I was singing, some one called out, "Stop your noise in that bunk!" so I got up, and went out under the trees: two or three went with me, and we sang and prayed all night."

"My friends, I left home an infidel, but I left a praying wife. A week ago I received a letter from her, in which she expressed anxiety for the welfare of my soul, and desired to know if I still held to my old views. I wrote an answer to the letter, and in bitter words defended my old position. As I was about to seal the letter, it seemed to me I could not send it. I wrote another, softened down considerably from the first; but when that was done, I could not send it. I commenced another, but such was the power of the Spirit upon my heart, that I fell upon my knees, and begged for forgiveness before God. I could not finish the letter, until I could say to my dear wife that Christ had forgiven my sins. I have been permitted to write to her, that I am to-night rejoicing in her Saviour. I feel that I am now prepared for the battle-field, and, if I am ever permitted to return home, I trust I shall go back prepared for that, a better man than when I came into the army."

On the first Sabbath afternoon of every month, the Lord's Supper was administered. Many who intended to unite with the "Christian Brotherhood" on those days, were ordered away before the time came. It was the custom to inquire carefully into the religious experience of those who desired baptism, before administering the ordinance. At one communion service, three soldiers, previously examined, presented themselves for baptism. As they came forward, a young soldier in the congregation, a lad of seventeen years, looked up with surprise, and, seeming to comprehend the scene, instantly rose, and, with a calm, quiet air and firm step, came and stood beside them. Mr. Fisher paused. "Do you wish to be baptized?" "Yes, sir." "Have you never been baptized?" "No, sir." "Why do you wish it?" "Because I love Jesus." "Will baptism save you?" "No, sir." "How long have you loved Jesus?" "Before I came to the army." "Why did you not unite with the Church at home?" "Because I did not do my duty." After further questioning, the delegates expressed their satisfaction, and the delinquent disciple, returning to duty, knelt



with his three comrades to receive the seal of the covenant, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. That fair young face, with large blue eyes and heavy masses of light hair brushed back from the forehead, arrested our attention, as, for nearly a week, his voice, with earnest interest, testified to his heartiness in the Lord's service. We subsequently learned that his father had died, a victim of rebel inhumanity, in a Southern prison, and he was now the sole dependence of his widowed mother and her small children.

At midnight, after one of our communion Sabbaths, there was a knock at our door. Some one wanted to see the Chaplain. (This is the rank always given a delegate.) Mr. Fisher admitted the soldier. He said, at once, "My wife is a Christian woman. I have been a believer in universal salvation, and always contended with her that I loved the Saviour just as much as she did. To-day, when you invited all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ to his table I came, and received the sacrament; but those dreadful words! Oh! those dreadful words that you repeated! 'He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.' They ring in my ear: I can't sleep. Is there mercy for me?" He was assured that, by that death, which had been remembered in the Supper, blood had been shed that cleanseth *from* ALL sin. After prayer and conversation, he returned to his quarters. He gave evidence of conversion, and when ordered forward, a few days after, he came to tell us that Jesus was going with him. On another midnight occasion, there was a knock at our door. A soldier, from the hospital, could not rest in his barrack, and had come to talk about his soul. Mr. Fisher pointed him to the Lamb of God, and prayed with him. He seemed to entertain some hope, and retired. The next day he called, and said that, after he had got back to his bunk, he could not sleep till he made an entire consecration of himself to Christ, and then he was so happy, he did not wish to sleep.

Calls were constant at the rooms; some days several hundred conversations were held with them, but of the details I am ignorant, except of a very few like those given. When the delegates were out in the camp, I frequently attended the library, and always found more than a willingness to converse on the subject of religion. It was a hearty readiness. The question, "Are you a Christian?"

would bring back a soldier who had almost closed the door. The answers, of course, were various. "I used to be, but the army is a hard place to be a Christian in." "I hope I am. I find the army a hard place *not* to be a Christian in." Again:—"O, yes! I think it not right, when I my God not thank. He cares for me; the bullets go through my clothes, and hurt me no. I must mend my sleeve and my blouse in the side and in the front. O, yes; I must love my God, and keep fast to the Christian." "And my heart pull me so heavy sometimes, when de priest say we shall get up in der meeting and say someting, and I not can speak goot English." "You can say you love Jesus." "O, yes, I have say dat, and keep say dat all time." Another answers:—"I used to attend church and Sabbath-school, but I may as well be honest. For years I have endeavored to banish all religious thoughts from my mind. I have been in Southern prisons for months, and have seen many die. I could but notice the difference. Christians died so easily. I wish I was a Christian." "I hope so. I love to read my Testament. Soldiers don't have much to read; but they think, and can't help thinking." "I once enjoyed religion, but I haven't lived as I ought. I wish I could feel as I once did." "If you have left the Saviour, go to him again." (With a sad smile and shake of the head,) "If I could only feel as I once did." "Is your wife a Christian?" "If ever there was one, she is." After finishing his letter, I followed him to the door, and said:—"Soldier, if you have left Jesus, go back, go right back." The sad look and shake of the head, with—"If I only could feel as I used to!" Said I:—"My dear soldier friend, if your house had burned down, you would not go about, saying, 'My house! my house! I wish I could have a house as I used to!' You would set to work at once to get another." He paused, looked up, and said with a soldier's emphasis:—"That's so; wishing won't do it; I must try something else. I will try to go back to Jesus." Extending his hand in good-by, he said:—"Pray for me, won't you? and I'll pray for myself." He came to our meetings two evenings, penitent and hopeful, and confessed Christ before his comrades. At the close of the second meeting he took me by the hand, and with tears blessed God for this his last prayer-meeting with the Commission. "We go front early in the morning. Don't forget to pray for me. I will pray for myself."

Some soldiers one day brought a Spanish boy, and inquired if there were any thing for him to read. Nobody could talk with him, not even his comrades who brought him in. Mr. Fisher gave him a Spanish Testament. The boy took it, turned it over mechanically, and I thought sadly; but, on opening it, his face brightened, and hastily putting it under his arm, he started for the door. Mr. Fisher calling to him, with disappointed look he turned back. Motioning to read, he opened and read several verses fluently. Upon signifying that he might have it, again he started off, looking neither to the right nor left, and with a pressure upon the book like the miser's grip on his gold.

The hospital connected with camp, with its six hundred patients, afforded a field of labor in which the delegates were deeply interested. But of all this interesting work I can only speak from my own limited experience. Many incidents could be given, but I will mention only one. On one of my visits, after staying over my time to speak to nearly all in the ward, I was hastening out; but the sad, despairing look from a cot I was passing so impressed me, that I returned to his bed. To my inquiry for his state of health, he answered:—"Yes; I'm sick, but I don't care." "Do you love Jesus?" "I don't know as I do." "Have you a wife?" "No; she died on the way to ——" "Children?" "They died, the only two I had." "Parents?" "No, they died in —; and as for me, I don't care what becomes of me." I said:—"Poor soldier, how sorry I am for you! No friends on earth; no Friend in heaven! You are, indeed, to be pitied. But hear what the Saviour says to you:—'Ye believe in God; *believe* also in *me*. In my Father's house are many mansions.'" I repeated through the sixth verse. Gradually the look of despair gave way; and he said slowly, in low tones:—"That is beautiful; that is *very* beautiful. Where is it?" I told him the chapter. He reached under his pillow for his Testament, found the place, and asked me to mark it. We read it over together, he following every word in his Testament with a wonderful eagerness and interest. "Now, my boy, does not that Saviour love and care for you?" "Yes. I had forgotten Him in my trouble." "Don't you want to come to him, and trust him now?" "I'll try."

Towards the close of the war, when the camp was daily decreasing by the detachments hurried to the front, our congregations

scarcely numbered two hundred. The number rising for prayer grew less. For three nights, four, three, two only rising. What could it mean? Had it been excitement? influence of numbers? Meetings were still solemn—even more so, if there were any change. But had the awakening spirit left? Could it be? Sad was the thought, and caused Mr. Fisher anxious solicitude. He took the test; “All who are on the Lord’s side, rise.” Oh! joy! nearly all rose! scarce a dozen left. Thanksgivings to our God! “This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.”

The Hospital stores given out from our rooms, have been of great service. We tried to give them economically and freely, and by all means, timely. The special dishes prepared for the sick, in these quarters, preparations of milk, farina, jellies, lemon, &c., &c., taken personally and with Christian kindness to desolate men, have cheered, and with God’s blessing, recovered many a man. The pickles, comfort-bags, letters, papers, and dried fruit and blackberry syrup, given from our door direct to needy applicants, would furnish many sketches to friends at home, that would amply repay all the labor and self-denial of gathering and forwarding these supplies.

Towels and handkerchiefs were in great demand. I have seen men obtaining towels, shake them out, hold them at arms-length, rub them on their faces to try them—hold them out again that their eyes might behold a veritable towel—then folding them in self-same folds, find a safe place for them under the blouse.

Upon the return of the army from Richmond, in May, the calls for towels and handkerchiefs were so urgent, that we tore up the pillow-slips to give each man a patch of cloth to wipe away the perspiration.

When the Army of the Potomac had accomplished its work, and marching back from Richmond, halted on the banks of the river, for mustering out, our camps became again the scene of active operations. It was made the head-quarters of the Christian Commission, and the base of their work in the different army corps, encamped around. Our meetings again filled up with our old friends. To many of them, it was almost like getting home. It was affecting to hear them thank God for this Christian Commission Chapel, and tell of the night, and point to the seat where they

were converted; of their feelings then, and their trials and victories since, and of their steadfast purpose to go home to do good service for Christ. And here, too, at this last hour were those seeking to find the Saviour.

Promises for a better life, made in battle or in hospital, or in the parting from home; all, as yet, unfulfilled, would often bring a young man to his feet to ask prayers that he might now become a Christian.

The dear boys, we were glad to see them go home, but it was hard parting. Those scenes at Camp Distribution, of suffering and relief, of penitence, of prayer, of trust and triumphant joy. How many they were! How distinctly they live in memory! How sacred henceforth to one heart, at least, since intertwined with the entire devotion, the last and best service of one who only lived to see the end of the work at the camp; then hastened above, as if to anticipate the great company of soldiers that are to come after, and bless God for the Christian Commission in the army.

ANNA V. S. FISHER.

[The close of this report, by Mrs. Fisher, furnishes a fitting place for mention of the death of her husband, Rev. James P. Fisher.]

He left his work at the camp, late in June, broken down by incessant toil, amid scenes sketched above, most exhausting by their constant strain upon the sympathies. He went, seeking rest: "I want to sleep more than any thing else," he said. He reached his brother-in-law, Rev. R. H. Wallace, in Newburg, N. Y., and unable to go farther towards home, sank and died. Some of the scenes of his last days are touchingly beautiful. Like so many others of the Commission, who have died in the service, when his mind wandered, all his thoughts were on his work for the soldiers. He was preaching, praying, and exhorting. In his lucid intervals, his mind turned at once to Jesus and heaven, a beautiful alternation and combining of a Christian's work and faith. The change from delirium was marked by a desire to get upon his knees and offer prayer. He loved to be on his knees. His supplications had little reference to himself, except for purification from sin. "Last night," said he, in troubled sleep, "was the great night of the feast. Jesus stood and cried, If any man thirst, let him come unto me." In a conscious state, he said to his son: "My son, there is one passage of

scripture I wish to impress on your mind. I adopted it many years ago to die upon: "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth from all sin." On the last day of his sickness, he called in his sleep, "Frank, ring the bell; it is time for meeting; I am to preach to-night. Is every thing ready? ready for the celebration of his dying love?" And so he passed on, not to the preaching in a rude chapel at Camp Distribution, but to the praise where God is the temple. Every thing was ready, and our dear brother celebrates the dying love.

### Pittsburg Army Committee.

In making our final Report, as a branch of the United States Christian Commission, we desire, first of all, to give thanks to God for the increasing favor he has given our cause in the hearts of the people included in the field under our immediate supervision. Their interest in the beneficent work of the Commission has not flagged, but, on the contrary, has deepened and widened to a degree unparalleled in the history of any organization that has ever appealed to the sympathies and activities and purses of this community. The record of the last year of our work is, by far, the proudest record in our history. No words can so eloquently bear testimony to this fact, as the figures in the following table of

#### \*RECEIPTS, WORK AND DISTRIBUTION FOR 1865.

No. of Delegates commissioned,	- - - - -	40
" of Boxes of Hospital Stores donated and distributed,	- - - - -	12,031
Cash Donations,	- - - - -	42,896.81
Value of Hospital Stores donated,	- - - - -	423,791.10
Total value,	- - - - -	466,687.91

These four hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars in cash and comforts show that the appeals, in behalf of our sick and wounded braves, met with a heartier response, and a nobler and more princely generosity, the fourth year of the war, than the first. They show that the last days of the Christian Commission were its best days; best in the confidence of the loyal North; best in the sympathies and affections of the people's hearts; best in the available resources for prosecuting the Commission's great sanitary and evangelistic work.

\* For full summary, see Exhibit Table.

They show the unswerving constancy and the intense loyalty of the people of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio and Western Virginia, to the great interests of the country and of God, that were imperilled by the rebellion.

In this connection, I deem it proper, as Chairman of the Pittsburgh Committee, to place on permanent record the great debt of obligation which the Committee, and the Commission at large, owe to two of its members, Joseph Albree and W. P. Weyman. It is mainly through their indefatigable and untiring assiduity, through their self-sacrificing and arduous endeavor, that the Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania has been able to make so noble a record. They, in connection with others, forming the Pittsburgh Subsistence Committee, and mainly composed of ladies, have not only achieved glorious results for the soldiers, in field and hospital, but have, mean while, fed more than five hundred thousand soldiers on their way through this city to and from the field of strife.

HERRICK JOHNSON,

*Chairman Army Committee, Western Pennsylvania, &c.*

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#### **Loan Library Report, by Rev. J. C. Thomas, General Library Agent.**

This will have respect to the *making, placing, and working* of the Loan Libraries.

The number of the loan libraries was increased to about four hundred. Of these, two hundred and seventy-five were large, and one hundred and twenty-five small. The large cases were three feet square, eight inches deep, and contained one hundred and twenty-five volumes; the small, two feet square, seven inches deep, and contained seventy-five volumes. Two hundred and fifty of the large libraries, and thirty of the small, were made up of new books; twenty-five large libraries, and ninety-five small, of books donated by families and individuals, from household libraries.

The new books, purchased expressly for the libraries, were selected with great care. The publishers, almost without exception, furnishing them at half-price, thus donating, in the difference between twenty-five per cent. discount and the usual wholesale price, the handsome sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars. Gould & Lincoln, Scribner & Co., Ashmead & Evans, and Poe & Hitch-

cock, gave their services as shipping agents; and Adams Express Company transported many of the books free. For an exposition of the Loan Library System, we must refer to the "Third Annual Report," pages 47-49.

At first, the new libraries were supplied only to the hospitals; but when the Rebellion crumbled, they were furnished also to regiments, military posts, forts and war vessels. We have now, on large war vessels, twenty-five libraries; at forts and military posts, fifty. The rest are in regiments and hospitals, with the exception of seventy-five, (most of them small), that have gone out of use. These will be put to service again. About forty are to be sent to permanent forts and military posts, when navigation opens. The remainder are needed for war vessels, now in distant squadrons. There is a place for every library we have, in the regular army and navy. Thus, these treasuries of profit and pleasure, prepared for our soldiers in time of war, will be made a permanent institution, blessing our national defenders, on land and sea, for years to come. Our libraries are under the supervision of Rev. J. C. Thomas, General Librarian, Evanston, Ill., to whom all communications, concerning the United States Christian Commission Loan Libraries, should be addressed. Army and naval officers, desiring a library for their command, are invited to correspond, as above.

It remains to give a few of the many facts in hand, taken from the monthly Reports of chaplains and libraries, of hospitals and regiments and detachments, illustrative of the usefulness of the Loan Libraries.

Hospital 14, Nashville, Tenn., Reports for November, 1864, by Chap. W. Allington—Library 1: Volumes drawn, two hundred and thirty-seven; volumes lost, none. Scarcely a book has been read without some commendation being expressed, and the reader, when asked, has never failed to utter his high appreciation of the entire programme of providing such valuable aids for the improvement of time. The "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation" has especially been appreciated; "Lossing's History of the United States" has been frequently called for; "Irving's Sketches," "Shakspeare's Readings," "Cotta Family," "Goodrich's Library," and "Sargent's Temperance Tales," have afforded intense delight. The library has begotten content, lessened rambling through the city, created devotional feeling, increased the number of our religious



services, and attendance thereon; in short, renders hospital life, to all concerned, more happy, and duty more pleasant.

Library 11: Volumes drawn, two hundred and eighty-nine; volumes lost, none. Marked improvement in the social life and general deportment of the patients and attendants of this hospital, has taken place since the introduction of the libraries. We have more correspondence between soldiers and their friends; more social purity, less boisterous and rude conduct. The mental and moral conditions of the men have been revealed, and not a few scholars, Christians and gentlemen have been found beneath the humble attire and title of "private."

Library 9, Hospital 1, Chattanooga, Tenn., Report for January, 1865, S. J. Hutchinson, Librarian, Volumes drawn, two hundred and ninety-three; volumes lost, three. "Boardman's Higher Life," "Haven's Mental Philosophy," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Smith's Greece," "Liddell's Rome," "Student's Gibbon's Rome," "Student's Hume's England," "Student's France," "Thayer's Pioneer Boy," "Goodrich's Works," and "Sargent's Tales," are most highly appreciated.

Library 20, Hospital 3, Chattanooga, Tenn., Report for December, 1864, by C. Smith, Librarian: Volumes drawn, three hundred and forty-one; volumes lost, none. An Irish Catholic read "Watson's Life of Wesley," and "McDuff's Morning and Night Watches," and expressed himself pleased with them. God only knows the amount of real good which this library is doing here. It will add gems to the Saviour's crown.

Libraries 49 and 50, Brown Hospital, Louisville, Ky., Report for June, 1865, by Chap. F. A. McNeill: Volumes drawn, three hundred and twenty; volumes lost, four. The effect of the library has been salutary in the extreme. The selections are excellent. I have long felt the need of just such an arrangement for our hospitals.

United States Christian Commission Station, Head-quarters 1st Division, 4th Corps, Report for nine days, ending June 6, 1865, by Chap. C. R. Ford, Library 53: Volumes drawn, three hundred and eighteen; volumes lost, none. The books are eagerly sought, highly prized and thoroughly read.

Library 54: Volumes drawn, three hundred and five; volumes lost, none. The books are being read to death. The only failure

is, there are not books enough for the demand. They are doing incalculable good.

Library 70, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry, Alexandria, La., Report, by Chap. B. L. Brisbane, for June, 1865: Volumes drawn, one hundred and eleven; volumes lost, none. The library is a fine collection. It is doing immense good. It is the best thing the Christian Commission has done for the service. Every regiment should have one. It has a deep and abiding influence—intellectually, morally, and spiritually. Each regiment should have a good and faithful chaplain, a good library, a chapel tent, and a horse and light, well-made wagon. The chaplain could do more good with these than by preaching. Would that the Government would take interest enough to furnish these things. For July: Volumes drawn, two hundred; volumes lost, none. The longer we have the library, the more useful we find it. For August: Volumes drawn, sixty-one; volumes lost, none. Have been on the march to Hempstead, Texas. For September: Volumes drawn, three hundred and thirty; volumes lost, seven. Some men in hospital were sent off and discharged, without returning, some of whom carried off books. We are very thankful for the library. No estimate can be made of the good it is doing. For October: Volumes drawn, one hundred and twenty-nine; volumes lost, three. Some books carried off by deserters, or others. Library has already well paid for itself. A number of souls lately converted. A good work going on in the regiment. I ascribe much to the library. Regiment mustered out on the 15th inst. The library has been of very great service. I turned it over to Rev. S. J. Orange, Agent Christian Commission, Brenham, Texas, November 22d, 1865.

Library 99, Hempstead, Texas, Report for September, 1865, by Rev. S. J. Orange, Agent Christian Commission: Volumes drawn, five hundred and twenty-five; volumes lost, none. The library has been invaluable to the men. They all praise the selection of books; and so interested were they, that I turned the library over to 1st Iowa Cavalry. For November, by Chap. J. S. Rand: Volumes drawn, three hundred and seven; volumes lost, three. At the end of October, we were on the march to Austin, Texas. The soldiers have employed much of their time in reading, instead of card-playing. We have a chapel tent, in which we keep the library,

and have prayer-meetings every evening. We have some clear conversions.

Library 105, Ekin Barracks Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind., Report for May, 1865, A. S. Pierce, Chief Steward: Volumes drawn, one hundred and twelve; volumes lost, none. The library has been extensively read. It seems to be just the right thing in the right place—a real blessing.

Library 147, Madison Barracks, Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., Report for December, 1865, by Librarian: Volumes drawn, two hundred and fifty-one; volumes lost, three. The books tend to keep the men in the garrison. They cultivate a taste for reading. They have a good influence, in many respects.

Library 160, Post Hospital, Capitol Barracks, Washington, D. C., Report for May, 1865, by S. S. Goodhue, Ward Master: The library has kept many from bad company, and from strolling round at night, and has made some think of their souls. I have heard expressions like these: "How much better I feel since I began to read these books! I was becoming too unsteady." "If I had had these books to read before, I should not have been in the guard-house." "The books I have read have opened my eyes; I mean to go home a better man."

Library 170, Companies B and F, 1st Regiment United States Veteran Volunteers, Baltimore, Md., Report for September, 1865, by Librarian: Most of the men read and stay more in quarters. "Miller on Alcohol," and "Lizars on Tobacco," have caused some to quit the use of these articles.

Library 178, 30th Co. U. S. H. A. Massachusetts Volunteers, Fort C. F. Smith, Va., Report for May, 1865, by W. A. Spooner: Volumes drawn, four hundred and fifteen; volumes lost, one. The library is a very choice one, and great credit and many thanks are due the United States Christian Commission for projecting and consummating so noble an enterprise.

Library 228, United States Flag Ship New Hampshire, Port Royal Harbor, S. C., Report for October, 1865, by Chas. Wiener, Librarian: Volumes drawn, two hundred and sixty-six; volumes lost, one. The library is having a good effect. It is lessening profanity and intoxication.

**Field Work in Shenandoah Valley.**

REV. EDWARD P. SMITH,

*Field Secretary, U. S. Christian Commission:*

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the U. S. Christian Commission in those portions of the field under my supervision, for the year 1865. During the early months of the year when my report begins, I was in charge of the work in the Middle Military Division, Major General Sheridan commanding. My last annual report closed with December 31st, 1864. This report begins with January 1st, 1865.

**STATIONS.**

The Department was geographically large, extending from Frederick, Maryland, two hundred and forty miles west, to Piedmont, West Virginia, on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and south from Harper's Ferry to Winchester, a distance of thirty miles. Our headquarters remained at Harper's Ferry, and by maintaining a number of stations at important points, we were enabled to do a thorough work. These stations were established at Frederick, Pleasant Valley, Lovettsville, Maryland Heights, Harper's Ferry, Stevenson's Station, Summit Point, Winchester, Martinsburg, Cumberland, Clarksburg, and Beverly, with several establishments temporarily at other points. The location of these rendered it convenient from them to reach all the troops in the Department.

**CHAPELS.**

With the beginning of January, we entered on the erection of chapels in different parts of the field. The larger part of the army lay around Winchester, and most of our chapels were erected in that vicinity. But we put up two at Cumberland, two in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry, one at Lovettsville, and one at Martinsburg. The whole number in the Department was about thirty. Four of these were large marque tents, the others stockade buildings roofed with canvas. During the winter, meetings were held in all these chapels by chaplains and our own delegates, and were invariably, well attended. From all points came the most encouraging reports, and there is every reason to believe that a great and substantial work of grace was accomplished.

## PLEASANT VALLEY—INTERESTING COMMUNION SERVICE.

One of the most important stations in the Department, and I feel quite safe in saying, one of the most important ever occupied by our Commission, if success in religious work be made the standard, was at Pleasant Valley, east of Maryland Heights. During the winter, the camp was occupied by dismounted cavalry, usually numbering about ten thousand. In the midst of this encampment, we first erected a chapel, thirty feet by forty. This proving entirely too small to receive all who desired to attend our daily and nightly meetings, it was extended to ninety feet in length, built in stockade fashion, and covered with canvass. In this rude temple hundreds of brave men every night bowed together around the altar. A Bible-class was organized, two or three sermons were preached every Sabbath, besides preaching, or conference and prayer every evening, and thus the fires were kept continually burning upon this altar. During the four months of the progress of this work, there were several hundred hopeful conversions. On one cold and stormy Sabbath, in the latter part of April, the Lord's Supper was dispensed to about five hundred communicants. The clergymen officiating, and many others, speak of this as one of the most interesting scenes ever witnessed. Brave men, from almost every loyal State in the Union, bronzed, weather-beaten, battle-scarred veterans of many bloody fields, crowded the chapel as the hour approached, till every seat was occupied. And then, in rapt silence, they listened to the simple story of the dying love of Jesus, and partook of the hallowed emblems of the sacrifice that made men free. One of the officiating clergymen describes the scene in these words: "The appointments of the table were of an humble description. The plates were of tin, the cups pewter, the bread came from the commissary, the table-cover was two religious newspapers, and over the bread were two small napkins, clean, but not ironed. Yet, though the circumstances were so novel, and had so much of discomfort, and the appointments of the table were so plain, the service in which we engaged was full of the most solemn interest and profit." Prof. Stoevers, of Gettysburg, who was present, refers to this interesting scene in these words: "It was one of the most impressive character, and reminded one very much of primitive apostolic times. Every one present seemed pervaded with the solemnity of the occasion. The chapel was filled with our veteran

soldiers, and all, with two or three exceptions, participated in the ordinance. As the men received the consecrated emblems contained in the humble vessels, it seemed as if all felt that Jesus was present; and as the communicants gathered around the feast, they realized the precious influences of the Holy Spirit."

I have dwelt upon this scene, because it is one of the brightest spots in the history of the war, and stands in the foreground of the picture—the love of Jesus sanctifying the war for liberty and truth.

#### CHAPLAIN LITTLE'S SCHOOL IN THE ARMY.

All the soldiers who have been in the Army of the Valley, know Chaplain Little and his "music-box." The Chaplain and his boys, (1st. Va. Vets.,) built a large stockade chapel at Cumberland, and roofed it with two of our "flies." In the evenings they had prayer-meetings or preaching, and during the day time the chapel became a school-room. Forms and rude desks were arranged around the walls, and then from morning till night, from one to two hundred "boys in blue" sat with their books, and slates, and pens, and spelt, and read, and wrote under the direction of their Professor and his ample corps of assistants. Thus again ghastly war was transformed by the institutions of a free civilization casting their refining and elevating influences into its very midst. Many sturdy West Virginians will always remember this old army school-house, as the place where they learned the first rudiments of their education.

Other points of special interest might be named, but to speak of all would make this report too prolix.

#### LIBRARIES AND WRITING-TABLES.

Circulating libraries were placed in all our stations, and did much to lighten the dull hours of camp life, for those disposed to seek recreation and pleasure in books. In each station and chapel, tables were also erected, and kept constantly supplied with stationery and all necessary conveniences for letter-writing. These tables were constantly occupied, and tens of thousands of letters went forth to gladden tens of thousands of hearts and homes. From thirty to forty reams of paper were thus distributed every week. None of our expenditures paid better than this effort to join the

home and field together, both by cheering the soldier, and relieving the anxieties of those who wait and watch around the fireside.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

Our supply of religious newspapers during the winter months was ample. They were distributed from our stations to all in reach; and arrangements were made by which we sent by mail or express, to all detachments lying along the railroad, out of reach of these stations, so that every regiment, and squad, and detachment received regular weekly supplies of papers, either from our Stations or delegates, or by mail or express.

#### HOSPITALS, AND HOSPITAL WORK.

While the religious work was always deemed of paramount importance, the relief of physical suffering was also made a constant aim. The principal hospitals of the Department were located at Winchester, Frederick, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Cumberland, Clareysville and Clarksburg. These hospitals were all regularly visited, and in no case was there any prohibition placed on our work by any officer or surgeon. On the contrary, our delegates were always, and everywhere treated in the kindest and most courteous manner. It would be invidious to mention names of medical officers for special thanks, when all treated us so kindly, and rendered us every facility for the proper and full performance of our work. During the winter and spring, a large amount of clothing and other supplies, was distributed in the hospital, and in the field. The patients, in most of the hospitals, were visited every day, and supplied with reading matter if able to read; and brief services were usually held in each ward every evening. As usual in our work, letter-writing formed an important part of the delegate's duty in all hospital visitations.

#### WORK IN THE CAVALRY CORPS.

"Sheridan's cavalry" formed part of the Army of the Valley during the winter. It has always been difficult to extend the labors of our Commission into this arm of the service, as cavalrymen rarely, if ever, remain even in winter-quarters more than a few weeks. Hence special pains were taken to make a thorough and complete work, and to extend the influences of our work into every regiment of this noble organization, while in winter-quarters. A chapel was erected in every brigade but one, and many very interesting reli-

gious services were held, and the interest in these exercises continued to grow, till the breaking up of the camps in the spring put a summary close to all our efforts in that corps.

#### FORWARDING MONEY AND PACKAGES.

The forwarding of money from the army in the field, to the express-office at Harper's Ferry, formed an important feature of our work after pay-day. From Winchester, and Stevenson's Station alone, we forwarded, from March 10th, to May 10th, five hundred thousand dollars, (\$500,000.)\* A check was given for every package received, and kept by the soldier till the Express Company's receipt was returned. The importance of this part of our work will be better appreciated, when it is remembered that had not this facility been afforded, a large portion of this money would have been foolishly expended in camp, and would never have reached the soldier's homes. But by affording this opportunity, and carefully informing each regiment of our arrangements, and our desire to oblige them in this matter, many were induced to send to their families, who otherwise would not have done so, and many poor families were made rich. At the breaking-up of the camps in the spring, thirty thousand packages and bundles of clothing were received at Winchester, and Stevenson's Station, and forwarded by express in the same manner.

#### MOVEMENTS—PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING CAMPAIGN.

On the 27th of February, General Sheridan started up the Valley with his cavalry, to take part in the grand combination which ultimated in the complete destruction of the rebel armies. This movement, by taking away so large a force, considerably abridged our work. But several thousand new troops soon arrived, and preparations were made for an active spring campaign. As the combinations developed, and the grand concerted movement advanced, and all were preparing for the final act, our army was massed around Winchester, about the 1st of April, under the command of General Hancock. Preparations were made for a movement up the Valley, simultaneously with General Grant's movements from the South. But the speedy completion of the work by the gallant armies around Richmond, resulting in the capture not only of the capital, but of the principal army of the

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\* The entire amount thus transmitted by our several agencies, if recorded, would have been seen to amount to millions of dollars.



rebellion, rendered our advance unnecessary, and the splendid army of General Hancock went into camp along the railroad from Winchester to Harper's Ferry. This preparation for a march involved the breaking up of winter-quarters, and consequently of our system of camp-work, which had become so fruitful of good. All our chapels were taken down, all supplies, stores, canvas and baggage sent back, and preparations made to accompany the army on its march. As soon, however, as the troops returned to their camps, our work was at once re-established, and proved very interesting and profitable.

When all the rebel forces in Virginia had been captured, the greater part of our army was sent to Washington. From this time the dimensions of our work were rapidly lessened; but it was not entirely closed till about the first of August.

#### WORK AROUND WASHINGTON.

On the 10th of May, my Department was extended so as to embrace the armies, then gathering around Washington city, for final disbandment and muster-out. Co-operating with Mr. Cole, General Field Agent for the Army of the Potomac, I established stations in the different corps, erected chapels, and organized as thorough a work as possible. These stations were maintained in the several corps till nearly all the troops had been mustered out and sent home. There was a deep religious interest in many places and, many came to attend the evening meetings, even to the last. Besides this, a very extensive relief work was performed. After the long and weary marches, just undergone in the final campaign, and then, immediately afterwards, the long march from the fields of conquest to the capital, had left many of the men destitute of proper clothing, and all weary and exhausted. To relieve this destitution and suffering, as far as in our power, thousands of shirts and drawers, and hundreds of barrels of pickles and vegetables, were at once distributed, besides our usual supplies of stationery and reading matter.

The stupendous task of disbanding such mighty armies being too great for one day, many of the men soon began to manifest impatience and home sickness, and we had much to do to cheer and encourage, and to cultivate a spirit of quiet patience.

But as the mighty armies melted away, and our soldiers went

from the camp to home-life again, the demand for our labors grew less; and at the first of July we withdrew all our stations from the field, issued a farewell to the officers and soldiers, and so closed up the work which, for three years, had been maintained in the field, representing home in every battle, and which had grown from a small beginning, almost too small to have a name, to the most gigantic dimensions ever attained by any benevolent and Christian enterprise. Its career was one of uninterrupted progress. Its influence widened and extended as it moved on, even to the final close, so that its last days were indeed its best days.

Having completed the work in the field, and closed up the business operations of the Department, my connection with the Commission formally ceased on the 15th of July.

#### AGENTS AND DELEGATES.

This Report would not be complete nor just, if I should fail to mention the names of some of those most actively associated with myself in this work. Whatever measure of success our Commission work attained during the year, was due under God, who watcheth over all, not to myself, but to those faithful ones, whose hearts and hands loved and toiled in the camp, on the field, and in the hospital. It would be invidious to mention the names of delegates, as specially praiseworthy, when, with only one or two exceptions, all were faithful, earnest, self-sacrificing men, who went to the field because they loved God, their country, and their country's defenders.

The agent upon whom the largest share of the work, in detail, was devolved, was Rev. N. C. Brackett, of Maine. Being a strong man, and possessed of tireless energy, it was impossible to give him too much to do. He was associated with me in all the operations in the Shenandoah Valley, and won for himself the kindest wishes of many hundreds of soldiers, as well as of officers and delegates. Rev. E. Colton had direction of the work in and around Cumberland, and Rev. J. H. Earle, at Stevenson's Station. The success of the work, at these two points, was due to the assiduity and tirelessness of these gentlemen. Gideon Bantz, Esq., resident agent at Frederick, so well known to our armies and to the country, for his Christian and philanthropic patriotism, wearied not in his self-sacrificing work, to the end. W. H. Pope, Esq., labored

efficiently at Harper's Ferry for several months, and Revs. A. Redlon and J. W. Fish, at Martinsburg.

Miss E. E. Edmonds, so well known to the country as the author of "The Nurse and Spy," labored in the hospitals, chiefly at Harper's Ferry, till May 10th. The country can never be grateful enough for her services during four years of unremitting toil, in camp and field and hospital. In the most quiet and unostentatious way she labored both for the temporal and spiritual good of the soldiers, treating every one with as much kindness and tenderness as if he had been her own brother. Her name will live enshrined in the memories of thousands, for good deeds, and kind, cheering words, in countless brave hearts, and will stand in the country's roll of honor as one of that immortal legion of patriot sisters who went from the refinements, and luxuries, and elegancies of our best homes, to share the toils and sacrifices of the camp and field, to bind up with tender hand, the bleeding wound, to cheer the weary, home-sick heart, and to add new lustre to the glory of woman's name.

#### THE DEAD.

I would not forget here to record the names of those who, since my last Report, fell among the dead, while engaged in the active service of the Commission. Rev. Wm. Brown, of Portland, Maine, and R. D. Merritt, of Wilson, N. Y., both died at their posts, with their hearts full of love, and their hands full of work. They died of toil for the Master, and were mourned by many brave men who had seen their devotion, and learned to love them.

#### CONCLUSION.

In closing this, my third and last annual Report, I would return my thanks to the officers of the Commission for their unvarying kindness to me, personally and officially, during the three years of my connection with the work. Nothing has ever occurred to mar the most pleasant relations. There have been no complaints, no impatience, no fault-finding—when there was, doubtless, room for much;—but all has been kindness, patience and favor, from beginning to end.

And now, our work is done, our organization dissolved, those intimate relations are broken up, and we go our several ways, to engage elsewhere in our blessed Master's work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. MILLER, *General Field Agent.*

**Report of Commission Work at Stephenson, Va.,\* by Rev. James H. Earle, Agent in charge of the Station.**

This station was at the termination of the U. S. Military Railroad, five miles from Winchester, and thirty-seven from Harper's Ferry. It was the base of supplies for the troops all over the valley, to which circumstance it owes its importance.

I think, after the battles in this vicinity, only a small force was here, until the last of December, 1864, when General Sheridan's Army having rested a few weeks at Kearns town from the memorable battles and victories of September 19th and October 19th, broke camp, and a portion of them—the 19th Corps—came to this place, whither I followed them.

The Commission had established a station here a few weeks before, which was sorely cramped for room until the arrival of the long-desired chapel-tents, one of which was erected January 9th, 1865. Situated on an elevation, sloping gently to the railroad depot, some thirty rods distant, it commanded a fine view of the camps on all sides, and the fields and majestic forests stretching far beyond them to the "Blue Mountains" on the east, and on the west the "North and South Mountains."

It was a joyful sight, when fairly up; and its great white roof began to blend with the sky in the evening twilight. We went in, and gave it its first dedication, by singing a part of old "Coronation."

Up to this time our work was *outside* the tent; not much could be done in the way of meetings, except when we gathered with the boys in the hospital, or around their bright camp fires, and sang "the songs we used to sing *at home*."

The regular dedication of our chapel-tent took place, Sunday, January 15th, from which time meetings were continued, *nightly*, until the 4th of July.

Rough and plain as our meeting-house was, we all soon learned to love it. The Spirit blessed our nightly gatherings; the cry of the returning backslider, and of the anxious sinner, were quickly followed by the rejoicings of the young convert. The work kept

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\* This station has been reported in the preceding statement of Mr. Miller, the General Field Agent. The detailed report of the Station Agent is added as a specimen of the kind and amount of work wrought by the hundreds of stations which the Commission has established during the war.

extending gradually and quietly, but surely, as an advancing tide, sweeping over the rocks and sands along the shore. Months passed, and still the Spirit was working with us; and when the last Division of the 19th Corps was ordered away in April, anxious souls went with it. The interest, instead of *decreasing*, seemed to *increase* among the new troops that came in to relieve them. Never had the chapel been so crowded; the seats were packed, night after night, numbers going away, or sitting down on the grass outside, for want of room within. Many found these evening gatherings one of the pleasantest things in their soldier life; and, better still, many told us that *there* they found Jesus.

An Iowa soldier—a manly fellow, whose wife and mother had been praying for him, and who, at last, came out a decided, happy Christian, wrote as follows, after his regiment had moved to North Carolina:—"If you are still in the valley, the distance between us is several hundred miles, yet my thoughts oftentimes go back to you, and in thinking of you I thank my God that I met you when I did. I can never forget the first time I went to that tent to meeting, nor how hard you worked with me; and, friend Earle, if I should live to see even more than the common age of man, I can never forget you. I am now where I cannot attend church as I did in the valley; but I feel as though I can live far differently than I did before I came to Camp Russell or Camp Stevenson."

An Indiana soldier said in our meeting:—"There is so much confusion in camp, I cannot compose my mind; and when I want recreation, I come up to this tent to meeting."

#### IN THE HOSPITAL.

Here we made frequent visits,—sometimes going at "ration time," and dropping half a peach into the poor, sick boys' fevered mouths; sometimes, in the morning, to write letters for them; sometimes, to give them neat, clean clothing; sometimes, kneeling by the sick bed in prayer; sometimes, telling of a Saviour's love, or reading some of his own comforting words.

One evening, after our usual meeting in the chapel, a lieutenant asked us to go with him to the hospital, to see one of his company, who was sick, and not expected to live. Passing through the dimly-lighted ward, with its sleeping patients and yawning nurses, we found the subject of the lieutenant's anxiety. He was a fine-look-

ing boy, in considerable distress of mind for his soul's salvation. After a close talk with him, a delegate prayed, he joining in prayer *audibly*. In humble submission, he exclaimed again and again: "Here, Lord, I give myself to Thee!" We felt that such a yielding up *would* be blessed by God, and it was, for at once his whole manner changed from distress to joy, and he exclaimed: "O, I'm *so happy!*" "I'm happy *all over.*" The surgeon stood quietly by, watching the scene, and expressed the belief that it would be just the medicine for his body, as well as soul; and so it proved, for from that time he began to recover.

Going into the hospital at another time, and stopping by the bed of a sick man, I asked him if he were "feeling badly to-day." "Not so badly in body as in mind," was his reply. I sat down by him, and he told me how the Spirit had convicted him of sin,—how Satan had made him believe there was no hope for him, until a chaplain had shown him there was. After showing the completeness of Christ's work on the cross, and the simplicity of the plan of salvation by faith, I knelt down by his side and prayed. He joined; and such an agony of soul and body in the struggle to grasp the promises, I think I never before saw. But his faith was *too weak then*. A few days after, his regiment started for home; and while they were waiting some twenty-four hours for transportation, I took their sick into our quarters. He was among them; and when I came to talk with him, it was as I expected,—he had found hope.

#### WORK AMONG THE INHABITANTS.

The Union people of Whitehall sent a delegation through the Union lines, asking us to furnish them preaching on the next day, as they wished to join the weeping nation in its last sad services of respect and love to their departed President. We found the church well filled, and the sermon, which was full of patriotism and whole-souled support of the Administration; and praise of the virtues of the illustrious martyr, was listened to most attentively. They wished us to furnish them preaching regularly on the Sabbath, which we did, until affairs became settled enough for them to have a minister of their own. We also furnished them a few papers weekly. Their thanks were abundant and *heartfelt*,—not always in words alone, but sometimes in the form of a pleasant gift of honey, fruit, or vegetables.

Some five or six miles in another direction, an old man, far away from religious privileges, and lying on what was thought his dying bed, sent for us. Our reception seemed cool, but he was soon listening to the story of Christ's love with tearful eyes. After two or three visits, he gave evidence of having been "born again." Subsequent visits showed a submission to God's will, and a meek spirit, that were most delightful to witness.

#### COLORED SCHOOL.

After we reduced the number of our meetings, we opened a school for freedmen on the unoccupied evenings. The number of scholars was sixty-seven, of all ages from twelve to forty-six. Their improvement, and eagerness to learn and to elevate themselves, were remarkable. I parted from them sadly; they have proved themselves worthy of all that can be done for them.

#### VARIETY OF THE WORK.

As this place boasts hardly a house of *its own*, we have had to combine in our quarters nearly all the institutions of a well-ordered village. We have had meeting-house, hospital, reading-room, writing-room, soldiers' home, post-office, express-office, news-room, hotel (free,) dispensary, &c.

The grounds in front of the tent, are trodden almost like a camp. The boys come to us with their sorrows and their joys, to have letters written and letters read, money expressed, for food, for lodging, for clothing, for sympathy, counsel, and encouragement. But time would fail me to mention their numberless daily wants.

#### STATISTICS,

Though they do not *lie*, fail to tell the *whole* truth, presenting nothing but the skeleton, which wants the flesh and blood to give an idea of the *real* work of the Commission. But, I suppose, you will expect a few:—

Number of meetings held,	.	.	.	.	248
" " Testaments and Bibles distributed,	.	.	.	.	1,800
" " Papers,	.	.	.	.	45,000
" " pages of Tracts,	.	.	.	.	223,000
" " Hymn-books,	.	.	.	.	2,000
" " packages of <i>hospital stores</i> , from a barrel of pickles, or a shirt, to a dose of medicine, distributed,	.	.	.	.	88,000
" " sheets of paper, with an envelope,	.	.	.	.	40,000

Amount of money expressed for soldiers,	\$40,000
Total number of delegates at station in the five months,	30
Cash expenses of station,	\$1,100

I have kept no account of the number of soldiers lodged or fed. It is large, sometimes fifty in a single day. In fact, these few figures give only a part of what might have been recorded. But I must draw my report to a close.

My work with the Commission is done. I look it over with mingled sorrow and rejoicing,—sorrow, that it was not done better,—rejoicing, that so much good was done—that some souls were saved—some kept from vice—many hearts made glad—countless wants relieved, and that “the Providence of this war” brought forth this great national organization of Christian benevolence—that the streams running into its bosom, from the many homes scattered over our loyal soil, from the pine forests of Maine to the golden sands of California, have made it a great ocean, from which they again have flowed forth in little rills, or rising in clouds have fallen in gentle showers over the desert of the soldier’s life, and made it bud and blossom with *home* flowers, and bring forth fruit planted by dear ones *at home*—and that the soldier has learned to love it, and has seen in its supplies a wife’s hand, a sister’s love, a mother’s tender thoughtfulness, and a father’s care.

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### Christian Commission Work in the Armies Operating against Richmond.

REPORT OF JOHN A. COLE, GENERAL FIELD AGENT.

REV. E. P. SMITH, *Sec. of U. S. Christian Commission*:

DEAR SIR—The accompanying reports of Field and Corps and Station Agents, in the “Armies operating against Richmond,” will give a view somewhat in detail, of the work of the Commission for 1865, and make it unnecessary for me to present more than a sketch in outline.

At the beginning of the year, the two great “armies operating against Richmond,” were occupying a continuous line of fortifications, fifty miles in length; the army of the Potomac being on the “left,” before Petersburg; the army of the James on the “right,” before Richmond.

Seven long months had these immense hosts laid seige to the de-



voted cities, wresting from them one stronghold after another, by fierce battles and rapid midnight marches. Now they are comparatively at rest—although the sound of hostile guns never ceased—waiting in “winter quarters,” the warm days and hardening roads of spring. The Christian Commission, which, thoroughly organized, had been actively engaged during these months caring for the wounded and the sick, preaching the gospel of Christ in the camps, and supplying from its ample stores aliment for both body and mind, had now presented a needy and hopeful field for its most earnest efforts.

As during the preceding winter, these efforts were mainly directed toward the provision of means by which the soldiers in every part of the army should be encouraged and enabled to improve their time by attention to their eternal interests.

The Army of the Potomac was composed of the 2nd, 5th, 6th, and 9th Army Corps; the Army of the James of the 24th and 25th, the latter corps, recently organized, being composed exclusively of colored troops. Each army had a large “base,” or “depot” Hospital; that of the Army of the Potomac, being near City Point; the other about five miles distant, at Point of Rocks. At each of these large hospitals, preparations had been made early in the season for a complete establishment, consisting of a comfortable chapel, seating six hundred persons; a large, well-lighted reading-room, provided with library, files of daily and weekly papers, and tables, with writing materials, free to soldiers; a second chapel, for the use of colored soldiers; a ware-room for hospital stores, and commodious quarters for the delegates.

These buildings were well made, covered with roofs of boards and tarred paper; had good floors; comfortable seats; were well warmed and lighted, and made attractive by every available means. From ten to twenty delegates were constantly employed at each, their duties being to visit each ward of the hospital, to give personal attention to each patient, distribute good reading, cheer the patients, by conversing with them or writing letters for them, and to hold short religious services with them as often as practicable. Meetings were also held in the chapel every evening; the services consisting usually of a short sermon by a delegate or chaplain, followed by a prayer-meeting, in which the soldiers freely engaged.

The reading-rooms were thronged with soldiers from morning till

night, this being accounted the "pleasantest place in camp," and the chapel-meetings were well attended, and not unfrequently crowded to the utmost. At each hospital, throughout the winter, the blessed influences of the Holy Spirit were manifest. Scarcely a night passed but some soldier, and sometimes as many as one hundred, asked the prayers of Christians and sought the Saviour's blessing. Often, as many as twenty or thirty, have on the same evening, resolved to consecrate themselves to Christ. The influence of these meetings, so blessed by the presence of God, was very extensive, as men were constantly passing from the hospital to their regiments in all parts of the army, carrying with them the power of their new life. Hundreds of precious souls were born into the kingdom of God, at these hospitals.

Meetings were frequently conducted, also, in the German language, for the benefit of many Germans, who greatly prized this unaccustomed privilege.

The history of either one of these stations, could it be accurately written, would be not only of thrilling interest, but would present a most wonderful record of the mercy of God, in the quickening and conversion of souls; of answers to prayer, and encouragements to faithful Christian effort. Very many poor sufferers, dying in these hospitals, far away from friends and home, have been comforted and cheered by the kind attentions of the delegates, and been led to a faith in Christ and to a triumphant death. Very many hardened sinners, coming to the hospitals, unbelieving, profane, and profligate, have gone away rejoicing, humble followers of Jesus.

Here have the prayers of many fathers and mothers been answered; here have many desponding, doubting Christians received new courage, and here have the hearts of the Lord's children burned within them as they talked of Jesus. When other parts of the army were in motion, and when other stations were broken up, these were undisturbed, and from the first establishment of the hospitals until the final disbanding of the armies—a period of nearly twelve months—they were a source of health, life, and peace to the suffering and needy.

At "the front," stations were established at central points in each corps, and were made as commodious and attractive as was possible, in the circumstances. Each Station had a fine, large

chapel and reading-room, and quarters for from five to ten delegates. Many of these chapels were gems of rustic art, of beautiful proportions, the interior being adorned with wreaths and festoons of evergreen and holly. These chapels were occupied as reading-rooms during the day, and for services each evening and on the Sabbath, and were almost without exception, the scenes of powerful revivals, being crowded to overflowing from night to night.

From each station also, the delegates went regularly to the regiments, in their vicinity, taking a weekly supply of religious reading, and in many instances, holding meetings in the open air. The chaplains of regiments were also supplied, as during the last winter, with canvas-roofs, stoves and lamps, thus enabling them to erect seventy-five large and comfortable houses of worship. Some of these were very large—sixty feet in length by thirty-five in width—several of this size being put up in the 25th corps, and used both as chapels and school-rooms. For these colored troops the Commission furnished, not only roofing, stoves, and lights, but primers, blackboards and readers, organizing the schools and providing them with teachers. The results of these schools were very satisfactory, the soldiers learning rapidly, and showing a great desire to improve.

Although, during the months of January and February, there were many startling rumors of meditated attacks, and not a few changes in the location of troops, the stations of the Commission, extending, as they did, along the line of the armies from Hatcher's Run, on the extreme left, to "Fort Hawsin" and "Deep Bottom," on the right, were able to accomplish an extensive and valuable work, proving a blessing to very many, preparing them for that exchange of worlds, which to them might be near at hand.

As the month of March came in, it became evident that active operations were to be resumed at a very early day, and vigorous preparations were made for what, all felt, must prove a bloody campaign.

The "Corps Sections" were reorganized, wagons loaded with battle-field supplies, and every thing made ready for a sudden movement. The chapels were left, however, until the last moment and the meetings continued in them, growing in interest, until the final breaking-up. One night, the enemy made an unexpected attack upon the lines of the 9th Corps, capturing a fort and pene-

trating far within our lines, only to be driven back, after a severe fight, with great loss of life. The wounded were taken to "Meade Station" and our beautiful chapel, which, only the evening before, had been occupied by quiet worshippers, was now filled with bleeding and dying men, some of them being the same persons, who, but a few hours before, had left that room in perfect health and vigor. So strange are the contrasts of war!

The armies are now joined by Sheridan's famous cavalry, who have come by forced marches, from the valley of the Shenandoah, to bear no unimportant part in the closing struggles of the war. They cross the James and Appomattox Rivers, on muffled bridges, under cover of the night, and encamp for a few days, near the Army of the Potomac. Here they are joined by a "section" of the Commission, and liberally supplied with stores, of which the war-worn heroes stood much in need.

And now the whole army is in commotion. The cavalry take their position on the extreme left of the line, driving the enemy before them; a large force composed of parts of the 24th and 25th corps, cross from the right to the left and join the Army of the Potomac. Winter camps are broken up, and the immense hosts await, in battle line, the orders to advance. The battle is not long delayed. Sheridan's cavalry and the 5th corps are early engaged, and, after a severe battle, gain a victory at "Five Forks." Cannon and mortars, along the entire line, blaze and roar through the darkness of the night, until, just as the morning of the 1st of April dawns, the grand charge is made. Fearful slaughter ensues, but nothing can withstand that charge! The enemy is driven back, and that line, which, for eleven months, had withstood every attack, and before which thousands of brave soldiers had perished, seemingly in vain, was now broken, never to be reunited! Soon the word passed from corps to corps, and, on lightning wings from city to city, and town to town, all through the broad land, "Richmond and Petersburg have fallen, and the armies of the Confederacy are in full retreat!"

Now begins the pursuit. Cavalry, infantry, and artillery, regardless of fatigue, scarcely stopping for food or rest, press eagerly forward, over the muddy roads and through the swollen streams, now skirmishing with the enemy, now capturing a supply train, now fighting with an advance guard for an important pass, now

cutting off an entire division, until, in just one week from the evacuation of Petersburg, the rebel army is completely surrounded, its General surrenders, and its veterans lay down their arms in presence of the victors, and the "Great Rebellion" is no more!

The Agents and Delegates of the Christian Commission were not idle during these eventful days.

Organized into companies under experienced leaders, and amply supplied with every-thing required, they were promptly at hand wherever there was work to be done.

The "5th Corps Section," constantly at the front, afforded, with its "Coffee wagon" and stores, material relief to the wounded as they lay on the field the night after the battle of Five Forks, and then attending the "Flying Hospital" followed the Corps to Appomattox Court-House.

The "24th Corps Section" was with the advance on the march, and relieved many of those who were wounded in the last engagement of the war, also sending a detachment from its number with food and supplies for the hospitals at Farmville.

The "9th Corps Section," taking forward three heavy wagon loads of supplies, established a Station at Burkesville where was a large depot hospital for the wounded. Many hundred men were brought here from the battle fields where they had lain for days without food or care. Government supplies, for some reason, were very scarce at this place for several days, and the stores brought by the Commission proved exceedingly valuable. The delegates worked night and day nursing the wounded, cooking and distributing food, bringing loads of straw from neighboring plantations, and by every personal ministrations, taking the place of absent father and brother.

The "Railroad Section," which was organized to attend especially to the wounded as they were moved from the field to railroad stations, and hence in cars to the "depot hospital," was very busily employed both night and day, furnishing hot coffee, crackers and food, and giving special care to such as required it. First at Humphrey's Station, among the wounded of the cavalry and Second and Fifth Corps; then at Warren Station, as the wounded of the Sixth Corps were moved from field hospitals to the base; then at Meade Station, as the hospitals of the Ninth Corps were broken up, this section performed its valuable work.

The "Individual Relief" Corps of the Commission was actively

engaged in searching out and imparting accurate information regarding the wounded and the dead, attending to special cases entrusted to its charge, sending home thousands of packages of valuables and precious mementoes from the soldiers to their loved ones there. At Richmond and Petersburg, permanent stations were established at once, the delegates being at first employed in the care of the sick and wounded in the Confederate Hospitals where many men were found in great destitution.

At each place, but more particularly at Richmond, the Commission was compelled to assist many of the women and children who were left entirely destitute of food by the burning of their homes, and the destruction of their stores. This work was, however, soon taken off our hands by the "Union Commission," which sent a large invoice of flour and an agent to attend to its distribution. Thus, during these eventful days at every point, the Commission was ready with willing hands and abundant stores, to comfort and relieve the suffering.

Thus closed the final campaign of the war. The troops after a few days of rest took up their line of march toward home; the hospitals and camps, one after another, were broken up, the stations of the Commission were removed, and in a few weeks the army of the Potomac was encamped about Arlington Heights, on the very spot where, four years ago, it had first been called into being.

Here again, for a few weeks was a precious opportunity to work for souls.

To the veteran who, his task performed, now waiting only that final order, long delayed, which would restore him an honored citizen to the home circle, which at the call of his country he had left long years ago, the wheels of time dragged heavily. What better time than this to direct his thoughts to that heavenly Father, who had spared him through all the perils of his army life to urge him henceforth to a consecration of body and soul to that Father's service?

The large canvas chapel which a few weeks before he had left on the eve of battle to go forth to the uncertainties of a fierce campaign, now once more invited him to worship and to thanksgiving. In every corps and permanent camp, these "tabernacles" were pitched, and nightly resounded with hymns of praise and prayers of triumphant faith.

Here from the lips of veterans, who in marches, in the trenches, in the storms of battle, and in the prisons of the foe, had for years braved the hardships of war, fell words of childlike faith and trust, testifying to the reality of that hope in Christ which had never deserted them, and which the darkness of the world could never take away.

It was in truth a Pentecostal season to hundreds of souls, one that can never be forgotten by those who were permitted to partake in that "harvest home."

That pillar of fire which had ever gone before us, guiding in a way that we knew not, a way encompassed by difficulties and dangers, but made glorious by the favor of God, seemed now to rest upon every tabernacle and to shine upon every heart.

Only a few short weeks did these scenes continue, the order came, the regiments passed away, each to its parent State, and henceforth the Army of the Potomac was to live only on the pages of history, and in the memories of men.

And with it closed that work, which, beginning in the efforts of a few to bring the blessings of practical Christianity to men who, in the new life of the army, were denied the privileges of home, had extended over the whole period of the war, a work which had embraced the labors of hundreds of the Lord's children; which had been followed in its mission to the afflicted and the lost, by the prayers of ten times ten thousand faithful hearts; which had, in the name of Christ, brought healing to many a fainting body, and life to many a perishing soul.

Its record, too, shall live in the memories of men. Thousands will have reason to bear it in thankful remembrance for the help it brought to them in their hour of extremity.

Thousands, stricken in the battles of the Peninsula, at Chantilly, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Richmond,—those fainting by weariness on marches, and languishing by disease in army hospitals, have reason to thank God for the help rendered them in that name of *Christ*.

The souls that have in a hundred "Stations" found peace through faith in His name, and been made heirs to an inheritance, incorruptible and eternal, will never forget that work.

When those, who as humble instruments in the hand of God, for

this work, and those whom they sought to benefit, shall alike have passed away from earth and been forgotten, the influence of these labors shall still exist imperishable as eternity, because they are the work of the Divine Spirit and not the work of man.

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**Report of the Commission's Work in the Army of the James, from November 1864, to the close of the War.**

BY REV. E. F. WILLIAMS, FIELD AGENT, ARMY OF THE JAMES.

Previously to November, 1864, the work of the Christian Commission in the armies operating against Richmond, had been directed by a single agent, whose duties embraced the oversight of the work within the fortifications at City Point, the army of the Potomac and the army of the James.

The field was too extended for the care of one mind, and in November a corps of associates was organized, and a division of labor was effected;—Mr. M. B. Lowrie, taking charge of the army of the Potomac; Rev. S. S. Ashley, of the General Hospital and the work within the defences at City Point; while the army of the James, with the fleet of gunboats in the river, and the prisoners who might be exchanged at Aiken's Landing, were assigned to me.

At this time there could not have been less than sixty thousand men under the command of General Butler. The forces lay along a line of breastworks, of twelve or fourteen miles in extent. The first line began at the Appomattox, a little south of Butler's tower, and ended with the James' River, and was technically known as the Bermuda Front. Another line began with the defences of Dutch Gap, on the north side of the river, and extending from Fort Brady to Fort Burnham, (the Rebel Fort Harrison,) and bending around backward, first in an easterly direction, then running almost southerly, its extreme right rested upon the James' River, just below Deep Bottom.

Along this line, north of the James, lay the Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, while from six to ten Independent Regiments held the Bermuda Front, all ready to advance, or to fall back, at a moment's notice.

The work in this army had been organized in April and May of 1864, by J. R. Miller, since the general field agent in the Shenandoah Valley.



For two months he kept the oversight of both the corps belonging to this army. But after the fight of the Eighteenth Corps, at Cold Harbor, the great number of wounded there rendered it necessary for Mr. Miller to give his personal attention to the work in one corps only. So that, when all the forces had crossed the James, and were entrenched in front of Petersburg, there were really no field agents in the armies, and scarcely enough corps agents to properly manage the work. And yet, through the extra efforts of Mr. Cole, the general agent, and Mr. Jenkins, his assistant, whose labors at City Point, in the July sun, seriously undermined his constitution, the work was carried on with a good degree of regularity, and with very great success.

Papers were distributed to nearly all the regiments; and vegetables and peaches were in many cases provided for the soldiers in the trenches, as well as for those in the hospitals.

But as winter drew near, and the prospect of a winter campaign became less certain, it was determined to have more than a single station in a Corps, or Corps Hospital; to have stations established in such places as would render access to all the men in the field easy and practicable.

Measures were at once taken to increase the working capacity of the station at Point of Rocks, the hospital there being very large, and there being a prospect it would soon become still more important by the addition of the base hospital of the Tenth corps.

Preparations were made to provide a larger chapel than the one already erected. Foundations sixty feet by forty were laid, the logs being cut in the pine forests near by, and hauled as we could get opportunity, and aid from the Quarter-master's Department. In the course of two months, the work having been delayed by our inability to secure boards for the floor and the roof—the building was completed and dedicated to the service of God.

The room was filled the first night it was opened, and it was generally crowded while the hospital continued. Those best qualified to judge, estimate the number of conversions which took place in it, or as the result of its erection, during the three or four months it was in use, at not less than five hundred.

A building for a reading-room and library was also erected; also a store, from which articles needed in the wards were dispensed; a school-house, where colored children and colored soldiers were

taught with great success for more than four months; a comfortable house for delegates; a dining-room and kitchen; and a house intended as an office, but occupied chiefly by ladies connected with the diet-kitchens.

These plastered log houses, arranged on a neat plan, made quite an attractive village. Indeed, it is not risking much to say that few delegates who labored at Point of Rocks can ever forget the happy days and the glorious meetings there enjoyed.

The work of the Commission continued longer here than at any other point in the army, as the station was not broken up until June 1865, and its commencement dated back to June of the preceding year.

At the beginning of November, there was a station of the Commission in the Tenth Corps Base Hospital, on the banks of the James, not far from Jones' Landing. For some reason, this station was never greatly prospered. The meetings were thinly attended, and, though there was a good degree of interest manifested, there was none of that deep religious feeling which characterized the work in other stations of the Commission. The delegates, however, did good work in the wards of the hospital, going from bed to bed, and conversing with the men upon the subject of personal religion, holding meetings in the tents every Sabbath and frequently during the week, and affording funeral services for the dead. They preached to the regiments in the vicinity, and faithfully distributed the reading matter put into their hands.

But the removal of the hospital to Point of Rocks was a matter of gratitude to those who had this station in charge. They now brought the station nearer the landing, hoping that the same labor expended upon a different class of men, might be more effective for the cause of Christ.

Nor were they disappointed in the result. The new station served as a base of supplies for all our operations in the Army of the James—which was now upon the north side of the river; a large number of teamsters were reached by it, (for at this time the wagons of the army were parked near Jones' Landing,) and the employees of the Quarter-master and Commissary Departments, found another large class of men among whom we had not worked regularly for a long time. They now received our attention. A school for colored men was also established; meetings were held nearly every night,

in a large tent, (Crozer Tabernacle,) forty by thirty feet, not so full as those at Point of Rocks, but with a good degree of interest and many conversions.

Some twelve or more regiments were constantly visited from this station, and religious services held with them whenever it was practicable.

From this point also the gunboats and monitors were reached; and here we kept the food which was given the hungry prisoners who came down from Richmond to Varina (or Aiken's) to be exchanged. So that, taking all things into account, the station at Jones's Landing was one of the most important in the field.

Crossing the river by the pontoon bridge at Aiken's, and going northward by the road cut through Aiken's farm, and passing by General Butler's head-quarters, we reach the Field Hospital of the 18th Corps, and find the flag of the Christian Commission floating over "Butler Station." There is a chapel here which is always well filled, and under its sacred canvass very many souls are being converted. This station does a quiet but effective work for several months, till the negroes of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James are consolidated into a single corps, (the 25th,) and all the white troops of the Army of the James are formed into the 24th. Then it is broken up, and the delegates assigned to other places.

Pressing on still further, and bearing to the south of east for two miles, we come to "White Oak" Station, which is among the troops that constitute the extreme right of our line of defences. This station is most easily reached by following the "corduroy" road which leads from Deep Bottom directly past it to Signal Hill and to Kautz's cavalry, and which terminates in the New Market Road, at the foot of Signal Hill.

This station, though not in an attractive spot, nor one easily accessible, was yet prosperous and successful. The agent who pitched it remained in charge till the first of February, when he was advanced to a more responsible position; and whatever of success was achieved at "White Oak" is due, under the blessing of God, to his earnest and self-denying efforts.

This part of the line being exposed, severe picket duty prevented the usual attendance upon religious meetings. Nor were all of the chaplains as much interested in religious things as they might have been expected to be, though some tried to do their whole duty.

We do not therefore infer, because on stormy and dark nights the chapel was not crowded, that the station did not accomplish great good, or that souls were not converted here. The judgment day alone can reveal the amount of good effected. Christians were revived, backsliders reclaimed, the impenitent awakened, and the awakened and convicted converted.

Following the "corduroy road," which leads by this station past Signal Hill, and keeping the New Market Road for a little more than a mile, passing through the camp of Kautz's cavalry on the right and left of the road, perfectly concealed from the enemy by a belt of pines designedly left to hide their position, we come to "New Market Station," near General Foster's head-quarters, and within a few rods of our breastworks.

The beginnings of this station date back to October, but the real work of the station did not commence until the last of November, when a log house, 20 by 18, was erected for the delegates, and a chapel, 60 by 20, for the meetings.

The latter was begun Thursday afternoon, and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God the Sabbath following.

The troops which were first interested in this chapel belonged chiefly to those regiments which went first with General Butler, and then with General Terry, to Fort Fisher; and the work of genuine religious interest among them had hardly begun when they were summoned away; some of the converts to pass from the bloody attack upon the defences of Wilmington to the bright realms of glory above.

Disappointed in a measure by the sudden departure of the men among whom they were laboring, the delegates did not relax their efforts, but directing attention to the sick men and the camp guard left behind, they obtained from these scattered materials a full house, and a most interesting work of grace was the result.

Very many of the troops here stationed were Germans, and spoke English with difficulty. Services were held for their benefit two evenings in a week in their own language. Than these Germans, more grateful men were rarely seen. They were always seeking some way in which to manifest their gratitude. Two or three would go with a team and haul wood for our quarters, one would cut it at the door, another pack it in the chapel for safety, others would try to improve the seats of the chapel, all seeking some

method of showing their attachment and kind feeling towards the delegates and the Commission. A German who had been lately converted came one day into the Quarters, and presenting three dollars to the Commission, not staying for thanks, said, as he slipped away; "One me; one me wife; one me child. Use for Christ's sake." Another came with a piece of paper, on which was written a request for a housewife. "Please give bearer, J——, a bag of comfort. He no speak English, so he get me write for him." No one need be told the happiness of the bearer on obtaining his wish. Another most interesting case was brought to our notice at this time, whose history is given below :

"At the outbreak of the rebellion, J—— was a citizen of Virginia, and a member of a company of volunteer militia. He voted with a majority of five-sixths of his town against secession. When secession was forced upon his State, and his regiment was about to be called to the support of the rebellion, he left Virginia, and secretly removed his family and a portion of his household goods to Maryland. During Lee's invasion, a short time before the battle of Gettysburg, his Maryland home was visited by a gang of rebels, who recognized him as an old neighbor, and arrested him as a deserter from the rebel service. He expected to be hung, but God mercifully spared his life. He was hurried away to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and back to Gettysburg, where he was a witness, under guard, of that terrific battle. In the confusion of the retreat, and under the cover of night, he escaped the rebel guard, and reached the Union camp. Here, through mistake, he was classed with the rebel prisoners, and sent to Fort Delaware. Upon producing proper evidence, he was, after a vexatious delay, released as a good Union man. Getting his little family together again, he took them to Pennsylvania, where he remained till Washington was threatened in the summer of 1864, when he enlisted in the early part of July in the Union Army, with the understanding that he should do duty in the State or at Washington, and should not be exposed to capture by the rebels in Virginia. Upon the completion of our chapel on the New Market Road, he was present at the services of dedication, when God met him by His Spirit, convincing him of sin, and giving him faith and repentance unto eternal life. When those desiring to enter upon the service of God were requested to give their names to the delegates of the Commission, he handed

in his name, stating as he did so that he had enlisted under a fictitious name, fearing that he might fall into rebel hands and be remembered as a deserter; but, said he most earnestly, 'I want my right name written among the people of God.'

"During the winter he was full of hope and rejoicing, and was wont in every meeting to declare his love to God and to his fellow-men. It was a rare enjoyment to hear his testimony to the grace of God. Said he one evening, with his foreign accent, 'I used to laugh at dese tings, and I find fault wid de breacher—some was too long, and some was too short, some was too big, and some was too little—but how dey just suits me. I love dem all; I love dis house; I love de word of God, and I mean to serve Him all my life. My bredren, be firm, be faithful; stand up for Jesus, and nothing will harm you. I was afraid at first myself, but I do my duty. I read my Bible; and though my wicked companions shake head and laugh, I know when dey see me in earnest, dey will soon quit dis foolishness.'

"Efforts were made to induce the military authorities to keep faith with J—— —, and by dint of frequent visits at headquarters, and earnest effort on the part of his regimental officers, he was transferred to the North-West, to serve against the Indians; where, we doubt not, he is standing in his place, and rendering efficient service for his Master."

A little past the beginning of the year, two brigades of the Independent Division, from the Valley, under the command of General Harris, were encamped in the vicinity of the station. Many of the troops were West Virginians, and of strong Presbyterian tendencies. With their General at their head, they used to crowd our chapel in stormy as well as, in fair weather, to listen to his words or to the words of the delegate whose turn it might be to lead the meeting. God's blessing attended these meetings, and converts were numbered by scores. Probably the influence of General Harris over his men, did very much to awaken and continue the interest in these gatherings. Many pious officers joined with him in his efforts to lead men to the Saviour.

This station continued to exert its influence till April 3d, the day of the occupation of Richmond, when the old chapel was abandoned, and the quarters the delegates had so long occupied, for the more stirring and exciting, but not less interesting and profitable.

scenes in the rebel capital. It is impossible, in the absence of the station books, to fix upon the number of converts at this station during the period of its existence; but it could not have been less than two hundred, and probably may have far exceeded that number.

About a mile to the rear of "New Market" station, in a brigade of the Third division of the Twenty-fourth corps, commanded by General Henry, was "Henry Station," the neatest and most finely arranged station in all the armies. It was established in December, 1864, and labor here continued uninterrupted till April 3d, 1865. The chapel was a tent, forty by thirty feet, neatly seated. The tent was pitched and seated, as well as the house for the delegates, erected by soldiers who volunteered to do this work, out of pure love to the Commission, and a desire to enjoy the benefits of the meetings. The meetings were always well attended, and a steady, quiet interest pervaded them all. The state of feeling which prevailed here, may be illustrated by the following incidents.

One evening we were sitting around the fire, discussing various subjects, and among them the best way of reaching the soldiers. A soldier who had come in unobserved with one of the delegates after the evening meeting, and had sat in silence, listening to our conversation, started up with energy and great determination, and trembling in every limb, stepped forward, placed both hands upon the table, looked us full in the face, and said, with the deepest feeling, "Well, Christian brethren, I have come in to ask you to pray with me." We dropped upon our knees at once, rebuked in our hearts that we had not, some of us, noticed his anguish, and spoken to him before. Every member of our circle besought God's spirit, and then he who had asked our prayers, prayed for himself. One of our number went with the young man to his tent, and the next day he was rejoicing in his new-found hope.

Not long after, about two o'clock in the morning, the delegates were aroused by a loud knocking at the door of their tent. One of them arose, and found two men in deep distress for their soul's salvation, anxious to have the brethren pray with them. Candles were lighted, and the morning hours wore away in earnest supplication with God that he would give peace to these earnest seekers. Peace came, and through their influence many others were brought to Christ, till the number of conversions at the station exceeded a hundred. Nor was the interest confined to the meetings in our

chapel, but extended to regiments which had chaplains who held religious services among their own men.

One evening, a man belonging to a battery, three-fourths of a mile from our chapel, strayed over to the meeting. He became greatly interested in the service. When about half way home, he kneeled by a stump, and prayed. The next night, with a companion, he sought the meeting again. The stump saw two praying souls that night, and upon their return to camp they began to work for Christ, and in a few weeks, forty men out of that battery alone, found peace in believing.

Just before the Twenty-fourth corps moved to Hatcher's Run, in the last days of March, the interest in the Ambulance Corps had become so great, that a Church Union was voluntarily formed among its members, embracing the names of nearly forty men.

A chapel was set up among the cavalry, under the direction of Chaplain Harmsted of the Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, whose sudden death in the winter was so greatly lamented by all who knew him. Some of the roughest of the officers were in the habit of attending the meetings, and a large number of soldiers gave evidence of a change of heart, as a result of our labors here—for the death of the chaplain threw the entire religious work among the cavalry upon the Commission.

Chapel flies, of different sizes, were furnished to chaplains, who used them as coverings for many log chapels in their regiments or brigades. These rude churches in camp witnessed the outpouring of God's Spirit during the winter. Without exception, in the Twenty-fourth corps, they were scenes of a revival of more or less marked interest.

These large chapel tents and canvas roofs were a heavy expense to the Commission, but the result proved them a wise expenditure of the money of Christian givers.

In this corps, a weekly chaplains' meeting, organized at "New Market Station," continued through the winter. At these meetings, subjects of practical importance, and bearing directly upon the religious welfare of the soldiers, were discussed, and well written essays were read; the interest of the meetings being in no respect behind that of the more formal gatherings of ministerial brethren at home. Here chaplains became acquainted with each other, and with the delegates of the Commission, and a friendly interest in



each other was awakened, which will continue long after many of the more stirring and exciting scenes of the war shall fade from the memory.

The work in the Twenty-fifth corps, (colored,) though resembling in its more general features that in the Twenty-fourth, yet differed from it in several important respects. Very many of the men could not read. It was useless to distribute reading matter among them. Something must be done to teach them. A meeting of the chaplains of this corps was called at "Butler" station, early in the winter, attended by chaplains who had ridden ten miles through rain and mud. The Commission proposed to furnish teachers, primers, blackboards, chalk, and such other aid as might be necessary, if they would at once organize schools in their regiments, and throw their influence in favor of the schools which the Commission would organize in regiments destitute of chaplains. Hearty assent was given, and resolutions of thanks passed, with a petition to the Executive Committee in Philadelphia, to endorse the proposal of their agents in the field.

The Philadelphia office responded cordially, and sent out circulars calling for fifty teachers for colored soldiers. All the primers in the market were bought up, old spelling-books were collected in many a town at the North, blackboards were made in the field, lumber was obtained from the Government for seats and writing-desks for school-rooms. Applications for canvas were multiplied, negroes in blue could be seen every where, carrying huge logs upon their shoulders for the school-house, till, as if by magic, thirty neat and commodious edifices attested the eagerness of the colored men to learn to read and write. Officers uniformly approved of the plan, and the chaplains and teachers of the Commission had only to go forward with a work so full and ripe, that in a very short time after the chaplains' meeting, at "Butler Station," schools were in progress in nearly every regiment in the 25th corps—not to be broken up till the commencement of active operations rendered the existence of regular schools an impossibility.

To facilitate this work, two very large Commission Stations were established in the corps and both being within easy reach of the enemies' guns, brought every newly arrived delegate into the peculiar sensation of the first time under fire.

"Birney Station," named in honor of Major-General William

Birney, who showed us great kindness from first to last, was located upon a hill, just in rear of Fort Burnham, and under the guns of the Rebel Fort Gilmer. It is said, however, to the credit of the Rebels, that when they learned the nature of the establishment upon the hill, with a blue flag, they agreed among themselves not to fire upon it, even in an attack on the fort.

The chapel-tent was pitched, seated and dedicated in a single day. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Edward Hawes of Philadelphia, whose people generously paid six hundred dollars for the canvas, and named it the "Hawes Tabernacle."

Ten regiments were reached from this Station. The schools were held in day and evening sessions. The men came in by reliefs, as picket and fatigue duty would allow three thousand in a week for their turn to drink at this little stream of knowledge.

They showed great eagerness to learn. Some, without any knowledge of the alphabet, learned to read in easy sentences in six days. And for the majority, according to the uniform report of the teachers, the average time required to learn to read in easy sentences, was only four weeks. They take easily the normal system, the pupils who have acquired one letter casting about at once to teach it to some one as ignorant as they were a few days before. So that a teacher, multiplied in this geometrical ratio, would very soon be felt as an educating power in an entire regiment.

The religious meetings at this station were very interesting; some of them remarkable for the power and deep feeling manifested by the colored brethren.

As an educational, civilizing, religious effort, the work of the winter was abundantly successful. It was the uniform testimony of the chaplains, and the officers of the regiments, that those taught in our schools were more obedient and respectful to their officers; discipline was improved; habits of vice were checked; and in many cases, genuine religious interest was excited.

"Wild Station," a mile to the south of "Birney," and three-fourths of a mile from Fort Brady, was conducted on the general plan above described. Schools were established in each regiment; services were held in the open air for the benefit of the regiments upon the Sabbath; and prayer-meetings attended during the week. But the great work here, as at "Birney," was the *instruction* of the men; and most gratifying were the results. Hundreds of those

who could not read at the beginning of winter, were sufficiently advanced at its close to read in the Testament; and many of them had learned to write with rapidity and elegance. It was no uncommon thing for one riding along the line of works held by this corps, to see men, at every step of his progress, reading or studying in their primers, politely bowing as he passed, as if they recognized in him the giver of the blessings they had found.

From eight to ten thousand papers per week, were distributed in this corps, and we had the assurance that they were read with quite as much care and interest, as in any part of the army. Testaments, tracts and Bibles, were also distributed freely, and at the opening of the campaign, few men marched without something to read in their knapsacks.

The demand for housewives, for thread and needles, for letter-paper, pens and ink, and for assistance in writing letters, was very great. A delegate could never sit down a moment, but some one would come to him with a polite bow, "Please, sir, will you write me a letter?" And in almost every case, they would wish their friends to know that they were enjoying the opportunity of learning to read and write, and, that they soon expected to write their letters themselves.

After the capture of Lee's army, and the return of the Twenty-fifth Corps to the vicinity of City Point, the work was, at the request of the General in command, again commenced, and from every officer in authority, from the highest to the lowest, all possible assistance was given to the delegates, who were ready to devote themselves to the instruction of the men.

And when the corps embarked for Texas, William Kirkby, Esq., the commanding corps agent, whose earnest efforts had already accomplished so much for the men, was requested to accompany them, with material for the sick, and the means for opening schools again as soon as they should go into camp.

We had at first to contend with many obstacles. Our stations were none of them comfortable or healthy, many of the teachers were young and inexperienced, the elements even were adverse to us, the wind often stripping our canvas into shreds; yet the uniform sympathy and aid received from all the officers, the affection and gratitude of the men, and the results accomplished in spite of various hinderances, make us feel, in reviewing the whole, that it was

an inestimable privilege to be permitted to organize and continue such a work as that carried on in this part of the army during the last winter. God's blessing ever attended us, and to His name be the praise.

The work of the Commission on the gunboats has been alluded to above. Some of these boats lay in the waters of the Appomattox, and were visited by delegates from the station at Point of Rocks. Religious reading was carried on board, and religious services held regularly every Sabbath, and no where were our labors more kindly received. The greater portion of the fleet, however, was in the James' River, near Jones' Landing, and the Rev. L. H. Pease, was appointed special laborer among them. He reports of his labors as follows:

"It is due to the officers of the James' River Flotilla, commanded by Commodore William Bradford, that the Christian public should know how cheerfully, and invariably they have encouraged whatever seemed likely to promote the temporal or spiritual well-being of their crew. Through the last ten months, it has been my privilege to pay them frequent visits as a delegate of the Commission, upon thirty or forty United States armed steamers lying in the James' and Appomattox.

"Unlike our soldiers, seamen would ordinarily apply at our stations, whatever is given them must commonly be carried to them. But there are none who appreciate more highly than they, what is done for them, or are more benefitted by it."

**EXTRACT FROM MR. PEASE'S RECORD FOR FIRST SABBATH IN MARCH.**

"This morning the Commodore and all the officers and crew were convened for religious worship, on board the flag-ship Dunbarton. We stood beneath the open sky, exposed to a piercing March wind, and had a good service. At the same hour, near by, the commander of the double turreted Monitor Onondaga, was himself conducting religious services, on board his ship. Held religious services on another ship in the afternoon. At the close, a young officer sent for me to come up on the hurricane deck, to converse with him respecting his soul. In the evening, held religious services on board another ship, in which several of the crew took part."

Mr. Pease was deeply interested in his field, and was very popular among the seamen. We have reason to believe that some of the

officers, and a large number of seamen were awakened and led to embrace the religion of Jesus. My experience leads me to believe that the amount of good accomplished on board ship, will compare favorably with the result of like effort expended among soldiers.

#### DIET KITCHENS.

These were established by Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer, and will be properly reported by her. But, as the agent to whom eight of the ladies reported when in the field, and who had the oversight of two of these institutions at Point of Rocks, it seems fitting that I should bear my testimony to their usefulness.

Christian ladies were selected with great care by Mrs. Wittenmeyer, as managers of the establishment. Not only were they to be capable of overseeing a large kitchen and preparing choice dishes for the sick, but they were expected to be women of such talent, character and piety, as to exert a decidedly Christian influence over those whom they might meet.

The plan of the kitchens was this:—a building was erected by the Government, or by the Commission, if the Government was pressed for men; stores and furniture were furnished mainly by the funds of the hospital. A few utensils and such delicacies as could not be procured elsewhere, were supplied by the Commission.

The surgeons in their morning visits prescribed the articles of diet required by each patient. These prescriptions were consolidated into ward diet lists and sent to the kitchen, when the ladies, with the "boys" detailed to work under them, saw that the dishes required were properly prepared. These were distributed at meal time, in regular order, to the nurses who came for them, and who received the food designed for their wards in dishes made for the purpose, and were bound to see that the food reached the patient with the same care that they gave his prescribed medicine.

Some idea of the amount of work done in one of these kitchens, may be formed from the number of rations given out at a single meal,—never below one thousand, often over two thousand. Connected with each kitchen, were lady visitors, whose duty it was to go from man to man and to render those little offices, which the absent mother or wife or sister, were she there, would gladly perform for the sick soldier, and at the same time, to whisper in his ear a few words for Christ.

The testimony of Surgeons and all who were acquainted with the workings of the kitchens at Point of Rocks, was uniformly and cordially in their favor. Our only regret concerning them is, that they were introduced into our Hospitals, too near the close of the war.

The beginning of active operations in the spring, broke up all our well-defined plans, and opened another, a broad field of usefulness, but very difficult to cultivate, in as much as it was impossible to forecast the future and make such preparations as the actual result might render necessary. But the experience of previous years had, in a measure, prepared us for the demands of the last campaign, and occasions were rare when our Delegates were not on hand, as necessity demanded.

Fighting began Wednesday, March 29. The attack upon Fort Steadman, by Lee, had been made a few days before, Saturday March 25th, and signally failed. The Fifth Corps in the advance was every where victorious. In order to hold our lines, greatly extended to the left, and to turn Lee's flank, it became necessary to withdraw a part of the forces on the right, and belonging to the Army of the James, and concentrate them on the left. Two divisions of the Twenty-fourth Corps and one division of colored troops under the command of Major-General Ord, were ordered to move to Hatcher's Run. There was great bustle and activity. No one save the Generals, knew where the corps was to go. But the Commission must be prepared for any thing, so its wagons were loaded for a long march, and with the choicest stores; a party of earnest, self-denying Delegates was selected to accompany the troops, and the whole placed under the charge of S. E. Fitz, Esq., the agent of the Commission in the Twenty-fourth Corps, whose admirable powers of organization and management, gave peculiar fitness for this important responsibility.

The troops moved by night. Trains of wagons began to wind their slow length along, and by the time the morning sun cast his beams upon the abandoned camps, they had crossed the Appomattox, and were patiently moving on towards Hatcher's Run.

Our two wagons were in the Hospital Train, and when we came to broken corduroys, deep gulleys and impassable mud, there was painful anxiety lest our horses should "balk" and our work on that campaign issue in failure. But the Lord preserved us. He

heard our prayers for the success of the mission. The Twenty-fourth Corps immediately relieved the Second, and the colored division under Major General Birney, with the Sixth Corps, held the ground which the Second had formerly occupied, while the two divisions of white troops held an extended line beyond the Run.

This corps was engaged in all the fighting that took place in this vicinity. It captured Fort Gregg and aided materially in bringing about the results which secured the battle of Five Forks and the capture of the South-side Road, on Sabbath the 2nd of April.

For four days, the corps was under fire, and during this period, the wounded kept pouring into the rough Field Hospital, established near Humphrey's Station, on the Military Railroad.

Here our tents were pitched, and the work of distribution began and continued till the capture of Petersburg and Richmond, when the corps moved again, and with it went our party of laborers. The Delegates aided the Surgeons also, as far as their services were required, in washing wounds and in giving such assistance and care to the men as their condition rendered necessary. Another party of Delegates were at the cars, upon which the wounded of the Second and Fifth Corps were loaded from the ambulances, which brought them in from the far-distant field-hospitals. With sponges and water they bathed feverish wounds, and with crackers, coffee, tea and stimulants, they cheered the hungry and fainting, till all the wounded were removed to City Point, where they were met by another corps of delegates, and received all the attention, which the pressure of extra duties upon the Hospital authorities seemed to devolve upon volunteer assistants.

The fighting of the Twenty-fourth Corps was nearly ended, when the rebel capital fell. Its subsequent marches, however, were long and hard; its skirmishes, especially the one at "Rice's Station," near Farmville, were bloody and severe; its men and horses were almost exhausted, yet it never flinched, but pressed on and on—always found occupying the position it was ordered to hold.

That wonderful march of thirty miles in twelve hours,—bringing the infantry from "Rice's Station" to the support of Sheridan's Cavalry, and causing utter astonishment and discomfiture to the rebels, who had based their movements on the impossibility of such marching,—has passed into history. The presence of these troops in front of Lee, cutting off both advance and retreat, rendered his

surrender at Appomattox unavoidable. To these hardy veterans, be the honor which their stern courage and patient endurance, qualities which brought them in "at the death," deserve, and to those Delegates, who faithfully, though wearily, followed these hosts upon their long, tortuous and uncertain wanderings, and at last marched with them into Richmond, where, again issuing canvass for chapels, pursued their ordinary work, visiting among the troops, and distributing reading matter till the hot summer months passed away and the forces in and around the city were so reduced in number as to justify the Commission in retiring from the field.

Of this last work at Richmond and Petersburg, a few things should be said.

Lee's lines were pierced by the Ninth, the Sixth, the Fifth and the Twenty-fourth Corps, upon the Sabbath, April 2d. His telegram to Davis, announcing the impossibility of re-establishing them, rendered the immediate evacuation of Richmond and Petersburg, unavoidable.

Sabbath afternoon, preparations for the movement were quietly begun, and ere the bell in Capitol Square had tolled the hour of midnight, the heavy tramp of armed men and the low rumble of army wagons were heard in the streets. As the hours wore on, the panic of the citizens became fearful. The sight of burning warehouses crowded with tobacco, revealed to many a Confederate millionaire, the total loss of his wealth. As the wind veered, and the flames began to leap from house to house and from square to square, it became evident that the business part of the city must be destroyed, and that common ruin was inevitable. The faces of the spectators became ashy pale. But with stoical indifference many a rich owner stood calmly by and saw one of the wildest mobs that ever cursed a burning city break open his store in advance of the flames and carry away whatever it pleased its rapacious desire to seize. The slaves ran loose at their will. There was no power to hold them in check. They were so fully occupied plundering the burning houses, as to give their masters no fear of personal violence.

In the early morning, and while the lurid flames buried the rising sun in a sea of blood, and cinders and burning ashes filled the air, and the crash of falling buildings was heard on every side, came the most terrible of all terrors. White lips whispered, "The



Yankees are coming; those hated Yankees; the invaders, blood-hounds, full of rage and passion; robbers, ravishers and murderers."

The panic now became universal. Feeble women hid themselves in the solitude of their chambers, children nestled close to their mothers, stern men trembled and wept. The Mayor, with two or three "honorables," in a dilapidated and broken-down wagon—symbol of the Confederacy—rode out to the city limits, and upon the Osborn turnpike, near Mayo's mansion, set up a white handkerchief for a flag of truce, attracted the attention of the "invaders," and formally surrendered the city, humbly begging mercy only for its inhabitants.

The troops rode gaily into the city, crowds of negroes lined the streets, singing joyful songs of welcome, multitudes of the lower classes shouted hurrahs of gratitude for the great deliverance, but the majority of the people were sullen and undemonstrative.

The Stars and Stripes were at once raised over the Rebel Capitol. Flags long unseen suddenly came to light, and were seen waving in all the principal streets. The offices of the Rebel Government were seized, and whole piles of official documents, which the day before were precious in rebel eyes, now covered the floors and were swept into the street, or burned as so much rubbish. In an incredibly short space of time, head-quarters were established in the Jefferson Davis mansion, the City Hall, the State House, the Custom House and the Spottswood, while the negro regiments were gaily sporting in the grounds of Capitol Square.

The General commanding, upon riding into the city, instantly ordered his men to aid the fire companies in extinguishing the flames, and soldiers, white and black, spent the day with rebel citizens, in seeking to save property from destruction. One of the Generals pressed Christian Commission men into his office to act as his adjutants; and rebels who applied for mercy, got their first ideas of Yankee rapacity and blood-thirstiness, from calm and gentlemanly clergymen, who had marched with the troops in the morning, prepared to minister to those who might fall upon the expected field of battle.

In the afternoon, the vacant quarters of Provost Marshal *General Winder*,—name hateful to every prisoner's memory—were assigned for quarters to the Christian Commission, and our flags which had been waving all the day in other parts of the city, were hung out

here, directly opposite the bronze statue of Washington, in the square of the capitol.

No deeds of violence blacken our soldiers' character. Wearied with their efforts to stay the flames, they sleep quietly upon the pavements, ready to relieve guard over the property of the flying confederacy.

Early Tuesday morning, the agent of the Commission is on his way to Jones' Landing for supplies for the starving poor of the city, and for those soldiers whose excessive efforts have rendered them needy. Upon that day, our quarters are thoroughly cleaned; provisions and utensils for cooking arrive, and the work of the Commission in Richmond is begun. And what pen can describe it! There crowd around our doors a multitude of hungry, starving poor. The purple veins stand out with sad distinctness upon the foreheads of wan and pale women; their eyes are hollow and lifeless; their cheeks are sunken; their frames are weak, and their whole appearance tells a tale of sorrow and oppression which, for the credit of humanity, we could wish were untrue. A few crackers, at first, are all that we have to give. But the crowd increases. The street is almost impassable. There is jostling and pressing one against another. Women are crying: "In God's name, give me a little something to eat; my child is dying at home of hunger." A pale, sickly girl tremblingly creeps up to you, and quietly touching your arm, says: "Please, Mister, give me a little; my mother is sick, and we can't get anything to eat." Here is one with a note from a clergyman, reporting a case of unusual distress. Among so many, what have we? A few barrels of crackers, a little flour, some corn meal, a few bags of black beans, such as our prisoners on Belle Isle used to eat, a little prepared vegetable soup, a few delicacies for our own sick in the hospitals; and thousands are begging at our doors, kept out only by the bayonet of the guard, and crying and moaning, "In God's name," "In Christ's name," for something to satisfy their ravenous hunger. They do not ask for clothing, they want food. Who, with such a sight before him, could think of enemies!

Now and then, the picture of our starving soldiers at Andersonville, in Libby and on Belle Isle, may present itself to our minds, but it is pushed aside, and we labor with our might to feed those who have starved our brothers. Our troops too, officers and men,

seem to forget that they are among a hostile people, and generously strive with each other to alleviate the sufferings of the city.

Applicants of all classes multiply, till a telegram is sent to Philadelphia for ten thousand dollars worth of flour. The application is referred to the Union Commission at New York, and the immediate answer is five hundred barrels of flour, which are given out in cupsfull to men and women, without regard to color, of every condition—to those in rags, and to those in elegant silks.

The Union Commission carries on the work we have begun, and we are glad to turn again to our more legitimate field of labor of visiting hospitals, preaching to the soldiers, and distributing religious reading. A large lower room in the corner of the building we occupy is now fitted up for a Reading Room. Here come alike the citizen and the soldier, the minister and the layman. The latest news from the North is eagerly sought, and old papers, which during the days of battle had accumulated on our hands, are thankfully received and carefully read. Here are discussed by the divines from the North and from the South, in friendly spirit, the problem of the war, the future of the negroes, the method of reconstruction; and here too, are laid the foundations of future brotherhood between the different sections of the country, and from first to last, not a word is breathed by a citizen of Richmond against the Christian Commission; but often is it said, if this Commission represents the spirit of the North, then we have greatly misjudged it, and the work of reunion can easily be accomplished.

Our doors were open to all comers, nor were we often without guests. Representatives of the press sought our rooms, delegates from the Home Missionary Society, members of Freedmen's Societies came to us, and we had room enough, and food, such as it was, for them all. It was impossible that they should go elsewhere. There were neither lodgings nor rations to be obtained elsewhere in town.

It is not necessary to prolong this report by detailing operations about the city. We established a station in Jackson Hospital among the rebel wounded, and distributed to these sufferers, the articles which we would, in other circumstances, have given to our own men. We had a station, too at Camp Lee, among our own troops, and daily visits were made to the regiments encamped near the city. Care was taken also to learn what could be learned of the history of those who died, prisoners of war in Richmond. A part of the re-

cords of Libby prison were copied and the information thus obtained, lodged with the Individual Relief Department of our commission.

The graves of our buried prisoners were visited, coffins exposed were carefully covered; a fence was built around that part of the *Oakwood Cemetery* which contains the ashes of our brave defenders, as also around the little "God's Acre" on Belle Isle. Government provided the lumber, and furnished details of men, leaving to us the necessary supervision.

For a few weeks the returning troops furnished a field white for harvest about Washington. The heroes are in their last camps. Visions of home are before them. The experiences of war are now a story of the past. They will soon lay aside the marks of military service for the unpretending garments of civil life. What an opportunity for a few earnest parting words from those who represent the Christian sentiment of the whole north! The opportunity is seized, and God blesses the effort.

While this work went on at Washington, a party of delegates accompanied a detachment of soldiers sent by order of the Secretary of War to Cold Harbor, and helped to give Christian burial to four hundred skeletons that rebel recklessness had left exposed for nearly a year on that bloody field. All possible information in regard to the fallen was obtained and carefully preserved. The names of those who died, or fell behind the works and were buried by their comrades, were copied from the head-boards which marked their resting places. At the same time, other members of the Commission searched all the battle-fields around Petersburg and Richmond and the hospital burial grounds where an army had marched and camped for nearly a year, and copied the marks cut by soldiers in rough boards over the graves of their fallen comrades. This list increased by the record of our dead from Danville and Camp Lawton prisons to eight thousand names, was published by the Commission for gratuitous distribution among the friends of the lost.

Thus ends the history of the efforts of the Commission in the Army of the James. The results, who can estimate them? Undertaken in feebleness, but in reliance upon God, He gave success to the humble means employed. He alone made it a work whose memory is precious to all who engaged in it, and whose richest results can never be known till they are read in the light of an eternal day.

E. F. WILLIAMS, *Field Agent, U. S. C. C.*

**Report of S. E. Fitz, Agent of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps.**

The Twenty-fourth Corps was organized in December from the white troops of the disbanded Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, and forming the extreme right of Gen. Grant's forces operating against Richmond, as well as the right of the Army of the James, was encamped on Chaffin's Farm, north bank of the James River, seven miles from Richmond, stretching around the flank from near Fort Harrison to Deep Bottom. I was with the corps, in winter quarters on Chaffin's Farm; accompanied the First and Second Divisions, when on 27th March, they, with Birney's Division of Twenty-fifth Army Corps, United States Colored Troops, broke camp, marched to Grant's extreme left at Hatcher's Run, and participated in the final and successful attack on Lee's Petersburg lines, April 2d; marched with them in their pursuit of Lee, to Appomattox Court-House; after Lee's surrender, returned with the corps to Richmond, where it encamped until finally disbanded in August. The original Second Division formed, with a brigade of United States Colored Troops, the first Fort Fisher expedition, and the same with one brigade, First Division, formed the second Fort Fisher expedition. They were not accompanied by the Christian Commission. These troops remained in North Carolina, while their place in the corps was taken by a division, largely West Virginia men from the Shenandoah Valley. The last of February, the Third Brigade, Third Division, started on an expedition which proved to be the "Fredericksburg Tobacco Raid." They returned, March 27th, across the country from White House with General Sheridan. The uncertainty of destination, forbade our acceptance of an invitation to accompany them. On the opening of the campaign in the spring, the Third Division remained behind in the works on the north bank of the James, and entered Richmond on its evacuation, April 8d. The corps was reunited at Richmond on the 25th April. This statement of the movements of the troops seems needful, in order to an understanding of the interruptions to which the Christian Commission in this corps were subjected. Permanence of camp, so desirable for the success of direct spiritual labor with soldiers, was had to a very limited degree.

While encamped on Chaffin's Farm, there were three stations of the Christian Commission in the corps, viz: "New-Market Station," "White-Oak" and "Henry." "New-Market" remained after

my connection with the Army of the James, under the immediate care of Mr. Williams, the Field Agent, until 1st February, 1865. So of "White-Oak," until the middle of March. "Henry" was established under my direction, and so remained.

At "New-Market" and "Henry," there were well-built and floored, log, mud-plastered, canvas-roofed buildings, used as office and "living room," fifteen feet by twenty feet, besides a tent adjoining each, arranged conveniently for cooking and eating apartments. At the former was a log, canvas-roofed chapel, twenty by sixty feet, seated with logs, mud-paved, lighted by candles and comfortably heated with stoves. At "Henry" was a large chapel-tent, thirty by forty feet, spread over a firm log frame; floored with sawdust, well seated with boards, lighted with Kerosene lamps, and thoroughly warmed. The accommodations at "White Oak" were poor and inconvenient. At neither of these stations was the Christian Commission at any expense for lumber or labor; a dollar or two for nails was the only cost, aside from the canvas; the lumber and several doors came from a dilapidated house, confiscated to our use. The labor of erection was done by delegates and volunteers from the camps.

From these three Stations as centres, we worked out as we had the means. The number of delegates was always in deficiency of the demand; on an average, four or five each at "New-Market" and "Henry," two or three at "White-Oak." Earnest effort was made to have ourselves felt as a *Christian* Commission. At the stations, we gave to all callers, according to our ability, persuaded at the same time that whoever put himself voluntarily in our society expected, or at any rate, should be made to feel a religious influence. At "Henry," the chapel was kept warm as a place for quiet reading and writing by the soldiers. The meetings in the station-chapels, were held every evening, were well attended, and were favored with frequent evidences of the Spirit's presence, fifteen to forty without urgent appeal, expressing a wish for a better life. At "New-Market" and "Henry" the conversions numbered several hundreds each. The reclamation of "back-sliders," was a marked feature of the meetings. At "Henry" the converts had a meeting of their own at two o'clock every P. M. Sabbath services were usually crowded, with a large attendance of officers.

In working out in the camp, it was our purpose to place a religious paper or book in every soldier's hut in the corps at least once a week. We were able to accomplish this during most of the time. When calling upon the soldiers, or in meeting them anywhere, we sought to encourage the sick and desponding, to discourage grumbling, and to impress the Delegate's Christian mission. Twice when the enemy shelled the line for several hours, and "New-Market" and "Henry" shared the danger of the camp in general, our delegates gained approval by proceeding undisturbed in their work at home and on the lines. The twelve chapel-flies distributed to chaplains did excellent service.

Throughout the winter we received the countenance and active aid of officers and men. The Christian Commission badge was the passport to attention, respect and privileges. All our cutting and hauling of wood was done regularly by volunteers from the camp, in accordance with the wishes of the officers in command. At each station a soldier was detailed as cook for us. At "New-Market," Generals Terry and T. M. Harris; at "Henry," General Guy V. Henry, were very cordial in their support and attentions. General Henry expressed the greatest interest in the Christian Commission and on the location of "Henry Station," issued to his brigade a circular, announcing our presence and purposes, and "adopting" us into the brigade.

On the 27th March, the First and Second Divisions and Kautz's (now McKenzie's) Cavalry Division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, and Birney's Division, of the Twenty-fifth Army Corps, United States Colored Troops, received orders from General Ord to break camp and march at 6 P. M. With the full approval of Dr. Morrison, Medical Director Twenty-fourth Army Corps, I hastily completed arrangements, already commenced, for accompanying the expedition, and joined the Hospital Train, with one four-horse heavy team, one two-horse lighter team, one saddle-horse, and six delegates. We marched around Petersburg to Hatcher's Run, and with the Sixth Army Corps, formed the centre in the disposition of General Grant's forces for the final onset upon the lines south of the Appomattox River. The rapid march from camp, the heavy rains and the continuous skirmishing of Friday and Saturday, sent many men to the Field Hospital, where we were able to do much for their spiritual and temporal comfort. But one victorious

charge and advance on the morning of Sunday, April 2d, especially the taking of the rebel Fort Gregg, gave us a much more extended field for work. Within fifteen minutes of the arrival of one Hospital Train upon the scene of action we had ready for distribution, hot tea and coffee, crackers and stimulants. Here we felt keenly the absence of the coffee-wagon, which had been promised, but reached City Point a day too late. The delegates worked hard and long, and late and well. We fed the men, bathed their wounds, revived the faint, aroused the few discouraged ones, received messages and valuables of the wounded, dying and dead, for transmission home, pointed those who could think, to the Saviour of souls and assisted in giving the bodies of the dead a Christian burial.

Early on the morning of the 3rd the order came to our train "harness up and hitch up," and we were soon on the march to Petersburg it seemed at first, but in a short time we turned on Cox's road in the opposite direction. I ascertained that we formed the left wing of Grant's forces in pursuit of Lee, and that we were making for Burksville by forced marches to intercept Lee's escape to Danville. I concluded to trust to Providence and follow on, though our forage was nearly gone and our supplies reduced. The Provost Marshal told us to forage upon the road for whatever we might need for man and beast, and I knew that even if we should utterly expend our stores before we could be supplied, we need not despair of service; if we could obtain rations to support the delegates our services would be of value. As rapidly as the poor quality of the roads and the obstruction of felled trees and burned bridges would permit, we pressed on up the South-side Railroad, and after a stay of half a day at Burksville reached Appomattox Court-House, one hundred and twenty-five miles from Petersburg, on the morning of Sunday, April 9th. The week's march was very severe upon the teams and not much less upon the delegates. The advantage of taking the light team was very great, for it furnished means for the delegates to ride a part of the time, so that they were quite fresh when we halted at night, and ready at once to attend to sick and wounded. Of these, we had in hospital fifty to one hundred every night, from the continual skirmishing with Lee's flank and advance. Several times we experienced difficulties which perhaps would have been insurmountable, were it not for the



attentions of the Pioneer Corps. On reconnoitering at Appomattox, the discomfiture of the rebels was seen to be thorough, and the surrender on the afternoon of the 9th stayed the scenes of carnage and victory that had filled up to the brim the fortnight previous.

The Twenty-fourth hospital at Appomattox Station of the Southside Railroad was made the receiving hospital for the sick and wounded of Grant's soldiers and prisoners; for a week we had all we could do administering to the friends and foes, who crowded the wards, our stores having been replenished by a draft upon the Fifth Army Corps agent. Mr. Cole came up with us here, and with his approval, I sent two delegates with stores, on the Railroad, back to Farmville; their work, both on the cars and for a week and a half at Farmville was arduous and timely. We repaired our wagons from the abandoned rebel trains, and on the 18th commenced return march to Burksville, and, as it proved, to Richmond, where we arrived on the 25th April, just four weeks from the time of leaving camp on Chaffin's Farm, and three weeks after the evacuation of the city. The Third Division here reunited with us, and the whole corps encamped in and about the city of Richmond.

Early in May Mr. Cole put the Richmond Station Christian Commission in my charge, the duties of which were shared by Mr. E. F. Williams, Field Agent of the Army of the James, until June 1st. After the last date until the close of the station, August 17th, I was in general charge of the work of Christian Commission in Richmond and vicinity, reporting to the Philadelphia office. \*

The number of blacks applying for aid was much smaller than the number of whites; and they were more grateful. The dele-

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\* Mr. Fitz's opinion and account of the work of the Commission, among the poor of Richmond, omitted here, is the other side of the picture drawn by Mr. Williams. It is evident that some of the rebellious spirits of the captured Capital, did not find anything good in the Commission, except its benefactions to them, and these were accepted as their due, or as Mr. F. says, "As a part of General T.'s policy of coaxing them into good behavior." "They begged imperiously." No white clergyman gave us anything like a Christian greeting or recognition as a Christian organization. If they came to our rooms, it was to get Yankee papers, or to introduce some of their needy parishoners. Yet, there were multitudes, generally of the middle-class, who appreciated most thoroughly our whole mission. The colored preachers and all their people received us gladly, and in their times of persecution shortly after, by oppressive United States officials, our delegates were able to be of essential service to them.

gates of the Christian Commission were able to do much for the blacks in the way of advice. During the first month several delegates taught Freedmen's Schools in addition to their ordinary work. Rev. H. W. Pierson, of Ohio, by special arrangement at Philadelphia, spent six weeks in mid-summer in teaching adult blacks. We distributed to colored schools large numbers of "The Freedman" and of Testaments. Our delegates preached often in the African churches. The whites liked our "rations" but hated our gospel. The blacks worked for their own food, while they sought the gospel from us.

We at last became able to give our undivided attention to the Christian Commission work proper. On entering the city, the most pressing demands were made upon us by the rebel hospitals. These numbered at first eight or ten, containing over 5,000 patients in very great need of such aid as we were ready to give them. By the last of April the patients had been nearly all gathered at Jackson Hospital, where we established an out station of the Christian Commission. The patients at Jackson numbered at first from three to four thousand, but decreased rapidly until the first of July, when there were less than two hundred, and the station was withdrawn. The delegates at Jackson were assisted in the hospital by several rebel chaplains who worked harmoniously with us. They were not so rebellious as the city pastors. About one thousand soldiers encamped in the vicinity of Jackson were visited by the delegates located there. In the meetings held in the hospital chapel there was much religious interest. It was a strange and pleasant sight to see the Confederate and Union warriors mingle there. Strife was at an end. The wounded Confederate, and the Union soldier who perhaps had inflicted the wounds, united in worshipping a common Father, mingling their prayers that the God of peace would rule over the whole land, to bind it in one—a nation of Christian brethren. It touched the hearts of the patients to have "Yankees" treat them kindly, and when they became satisfied that we were moved only by Christian sympathy in doing for them, the spirit of rebellion gave place to gratitude, and they often said they never would have fought us if they had known us.

In May some time was occupied in attending to the fencing of the graves of Union soldiers who had died in the Richmond prisons, and had been buried at Oakwood Cemetery and upon Belle Isle; a

work undertaken at the request of General Ord, commanding the department. At Oakwood, three large tracts of land, and at Belle Isle, one, were provided with a secure, white-washed, board-rail fence. New head-boards, plainly marked, were erected over the graves of those who could be identified.

When the 24th Army Corps arrived at Richmond, it was my purpose to locate one or more stations among the camps. But the camp grounds were so widely scattered, as to forbid such a disposition of the small delegate force at my disposal. The best mode of reaching the men seemed to be by means of daily visits of delegates from the city in the light wagon, and by offering the regiments the use of our chapel files and Loan Libraries. A large number were taken and did most excellent service. Each Division was visited twice a week, and on the Sabbath every delegate who could preach, or any who could be enlisted for the service, had from three to five appointments for services.

The Corps Hospital was located at Camp Lee, two miles west of the city. At the request of Dr. Allen, surgeon in charge, I assigned a delegate there permanently, who acted as chaplain, messing with the medical staff. Dr. Allen said he would sooner be deprived of the services of one of his surgeons, than lose the Christian Commission delegate, for the latter was of more value to the hospital.

Stuart Hospital was the Post Hospital. It was visited daily. Libby Prison and Castle Thunder were occupied as military prisons; the delegates found ready admission and opportunity for doing good. Our office was central; our large reading room became a military exchange. From six in the morning till nine at night, the soldiers frequented it to read and write, and to obtain the articles we had for distribution. Two of the Christian Commission, and often more, found constant employment in waiting upon these callers, and in religious conversation with them, proceeding here as mentioned in winter quarters. For a time we held evening meetings in the Reading Room, but they were discontinued. Our distance from the soldiers, quartered in various parts of the city, forbade success in the way of meetings, except when held right among them, as was done whenever practicable. I think I never knew any undertaking of the Christian Commission pay better than this Reading Room.

When Gen. Meade's and Gen. Sherman's armies lay in Manches-

ter (as they did only two or three days,) and on their marching through Richmond, we worked hard for their benefit. Each occasion stripped us of reading and stores. Large numbers of rebel soldiers, discharged from Northern prisons, passed through Richmond during the summer. They drew largely upon us for reading and writing materials. Early in the summer, regiments began to be sent from the vicinity of Richmond, in every direction into the interior; many went home, so that by the middle of August there were only about 5,000 soldiers in the vicinity.

It becoming necessary for me to return North, in accordance with directions from Philadelphia, I broke up the station in Richmond, August 17.

In leaving the work of the Christian Commission I felt that the fifteen months spent in its service were all profit to me, and that its work upon me more than compensated all the time and pains I had bestowed upon it. I *know* that God stamped the Christian Commission with the seal of his approval and success: that thousands among the living and among the dead owe their experience of a Saviour's love to the presence of the Christian Commission in the armies of the Union; that many thousands acknowledged with gratitude the comfort and consolation of body and of mind it brought them in the camp, on the field of battle, and in the hospital; and that no History of the Rebellion will be complete without a chapter recounting the doings of the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, as evidences of the Northern Christian benevolence developed by the war.

S. E. FITZ,

*Agent Christian Com., 24th A. C.*

The above report of Mr. Fitz is of work in a single corps—the 24th. We regret that we have not secured reports from the agents in the 2d, 5th, 6th, and 9th corps.

The 2d corps station was for a time under the charge of Rev. Mr. Emons, and afterwards Rev. R. D. Douglass. The 5th corps station was on the extreme left, where the men were frequently skirmishing and expecting daily to be called into battle. The meetings in the brigade chapel-tents and at our head-quarters in the corps were full, very interesting and sometimes painfully solemn.

Rev. George S. Chase, agent in charge, became widely known in

the corps by both officers and men, as a most efficient director of our affairs and a true friend of the soldier. Rev. Geo. A. Hall agent in the 6th Corps conducted the Commission work with great success. The nightly crowded meetings in his chapel witnessed such scenes as have never been known outside of Army lines. The night before a fight on the left, the question was put to a most solemn assembly, "How many of you that are seeking Christ are ready to surrender to Him now?" In answer some twelve or fifteen came forward and knelt by the front seat, among them an interesting youth. An old man saw him—darted out of his seat and pressing his way through the crowded aisle—threw his arms about the young soldier, sobbing, "My son, my son. He was lost and is found." Just then an Adjutant from Division Head Quarters, apologising for his intrusion, called out. "All the men belonging to — Division fall in."

They were to march in the darkness of night, to secure a position for the attack at daylight. The men at the front seat arose, fell on each other's necks and wept. Some of them were to go. The father was not in the division ordered out. His boy was. The parting was tender and cheerful. He kissed him and said, "Go now, my boy, since the Lord is going with you." There were hurried pledges to be faithful, and then they took hold of hands all around the altar and sang, "Say brothers will you meet us on Canaan's happy shore," and hurried to their quarters to make ready to fall in. Some did not return from that fight. Two were brought into City Point Hospital badly wounded. They told us of the meeting, of their consecration, of their fearlessness in the fight, and their readiness to meet death, if it was God's will. Others came back and participated in a few more meetings in the chapel, and joined with us in our closing Communion service—the last meeting in the chapel, and the last meeting in the corps before the final movement on Richmond. It was a wonderful service, the ordinance of the Lord's Supper under marching orders. Officers, soldiers, and delegates, all united hearts and said parting words. Some of them, without doubt, would next drink of the fruit of the vine new in the Father's Kingdom. None expected to commune together again in this world; but in this they were happily disappointed. When the 6th Corps had finished its noble record of marching and fighting and came to rendezvous back of Alexandria, Mr. Hall, with his "Station" in working order, and his chapel flag flying, called

in his boys once more. The blessed meetings were resumed and on the last Sabbath before mustering out, one more Communion service was held—memorial of Christ's love.. It was the place and time for testimony to that love by men who had come in to the service as His disciples, had been kept true and were returning veterans in that service, and by men who had fallen under army temptations and had been rescued, and by many who were going home after a three year's service to testify for the first time to their family and neighbors of the power of a Christian's life.

Mr. Chase followed his corps from Richmond, and put out his canvass also on the banks of the Potomac, and by a free distribution of stores to the needy, and a nightly series of meetings, gave a very pleasant close to his successful work in the 5th Corps.

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#### **Report of Rev. George N. Marden, Agent at City Point Landing, Va.**

##### **THE PARISH.**

It was quite large, and very miscellaneous. A brigade of troops, perhaps two or three thousand, a regiment of engineers, a corps of carpenters, two military prisons (abounding with deserters, bounty jumpers, stray, suspected, and unruly folk generally,) a force of two or three hundred bread-makers, and a Post Hospital, with three smaller ones, containing about three hundred sick men. As base of supplies, City Point had its Commissary Depot with scores of clerks, a large working force of colored men, variously estimated at from one to two thousand, and the usual crowd of army followers. Here was received and distributed the material of war. The constant stream of recruits pouring from the North during the spring months, temporarily lodged and fed by thousands on thousands at the Government Barracks, together with daily squads of deserters from the rebel lines, constituted the floating adjunct of 'our Parish.' For ministering to the sick, for preaching the gospel in the camps, for teaching the more than willing colored people, for assisting in a thousand nameless ways the soldiers who thronged our rooms, for directing and helping on the fathers, brothers, and sometimes *wives* who came to carry home their dead; in fine, for doing good as we had opportunity unto all, here was a most ample field.

## WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED.

Statistics can but coldly and imperfectly set it forth. During the five months included in this report, eighteen delegates, of whom nine were ministers of the gospel, labored at this station on an average of forty days each. Meetings were held in the chapel every evening, and twice on the Sabbath. In February the evening meetings were but thinly attended, except on the Sabbath, when the tent was usually well filled. After a new and commodious chapel, located near the camps, was built late in the spring, the attendance at meetings more than doubled, and considerable religious interest was manifested. There was no extensive revival at any time; there was religious interest all the time. Believers were quickened, back-sliders were reclaimed, sinners were converted. Men going to the front, and others going home, tarrying for a night at City Point, found the evening meeting and bore testimony to the preciousness of Christ, or said, "Pray for me." A confession of faith and a covenant, suited to all Christian believers, drawn up by Rev. Brother Woodend of Pennsylvania, obtained many signatures, representing many denominations and many States of the Union. This was a means of rallying Christian activity and promoting brotherly love.

On one of those days of profound grief that followed close upon the final victories, a meeting was held at noonday, in unison with thousands of loyal churches. The occasion gave this meeting a solemnity never to be forgotten. Interesting and impressive services were also held June 1st, the Day of National Mourning appointed by the President.

For several months a Sabbath evening meeting was held at the barracks of the Construction Corps. The men welcomed the delegates, and listened attentively to the preaching. One delegate spent the Sabbath in holding services and distributing religious reading on board the gunboats, where he was received with a cordiality most refreshing.

The military prisoners were not very accessible, as it was pronounced inexpedient to admit our delegates to the interior of the prison pen, but it was permitted to send in a bundle of religious papers every week. It was evidently a wretched place from which men were brought to the hospital with feet so frozen that the toes dropped off leaving bleeding stumps. It was a wicked place, for

every few days men were led forth to the gallows, or to sit on their coffins and be shot.

I have regretted that we did not respectfully insist on having free access to the needy inmates of the "Bull Pen,"—as the soldiers, with more fitness than elegance, designated the prison.

On one occasion a delegate was sent for, at the request of a colored soldier who was under sentence of death. The man was in great distress. At nine o'clock that morning he had received the awful news that he was to be shot at noon. The delegate endeavored to point the wretched man to the Saviour, and left him, an hour before noon, in a less agonized state of mind, but still crying to God to have mercy on his poor guilty soul.

Above forty thousand religious newspapers were distributed during five months. Files of the latest were sent to the Lieutenant General, to officers in command in the various departments, also to every camp, to the shipping, and to Fort Powhattan, Harrison's and Wilson's Landings. Twenty-six hundred papers were sent forth every week, and more than half of them were distributed personally by the delegates.

A library of three hundred volumes, mostly donated by friends of the soldier in Fall River, Mass., Bath, Me., and Dover, N. H., was set up, and the books went about doing good.

#### DISTRIBUTION BARRACKS.

For reaching the thousands of troops and recruits, sheltered temporarily here, the Commission enjoyed for several weeks excellent facilities. Captain Potter, in command when the barracks were built, cordially favoring the plan, had had two rooms partitioned off in one end of one of the long buildings; a reading and writing room furnished with tables and benches, and a room for delegates' lodging and the deposit of a few stores.

Here, right among the soldiers, two delegates, sometimes three, labored most diligently. The long writing tables were thronged at all hours, day and evening; thousands of letters were written every week. The writing materials were furnished by the Commission. Postage stamps were sold, and the letters of those who had no money were stamped without charge. Religious reading was provided. Bibles, Testaments, hymn and other books for the knapsack were given to those who asked for them. Brief meetings were held twice



a day and each evening. Hundreds expressed their gratitude for these privileges. The outward effect was that the men were more quiet and orderly, and there was much less profanity, card playing, and gambling. The delegates were working diligently for the physical and spiritual good of the soldiers when their efforts inside the barracks had to come to a close. But the door was not quite shut to those who would do the soldiers good and not evil. It was permitted one delegate to enter the enclosure daily, and distribute reading matter, &c. Several officers, afterwards in charge at the barracks, cordially seconded the efforts of the delegates, and assisted them in relieving cases of suffering.

The *Post Hospital* was filled with sick from the camps and from the prisons. Here was a great variety of character—the noble Christian faith, the penitent heart, and the conscience hardened and seared. Every sixteen hours (according to the average in the spring months) one was carried to the dead-house. Here was a field for Christian effort, and a fruitful one, too. From my own rich experience at this hospital during my first month as delegate at City Point, I judge that no labor of the Christian Commission was better bestowed than here. The sick were ministered unto, in both temporal and spiritual things; prayers were held with them; the gospel preached from cot to cot; letters written for those who were too ill to write; the religious paper nearest home was so far as possible supplied to each patient. That there were conversions to God there was good evidence.

Army movements resulting in the evacuation of Petersburg and Richmond added several new features to our work.

#### HELPING THE REFUGEES.

White people—many once rich, now destitute—who had been pent up in the beleagured cities were now trying to make their way to the places of their former homes or to find new ones. Women with their little children, sometimes whole families came. We could not turn them away, but gave them lodging and food for a night. "You will win our hearts by your kindness," said one refined intelligent woman whose feelings had been, and without doubt were still, with the secession that had destroyed her fortune.

"I am grateful, not alone for the shelter given us, but for the

*Christian Spirit* which your Commission shows," added her invalid husband.

#### HELPING CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.

Eight thousand Rebel prisoners came in one rainy day, and a great many religious newspapers were distributed among them, and were eagerly and thankfully received.

By and by, the fighting done, the Army began to move homeward. But not all. The Twenty-fifth Army Corps was starting for Texas. To alleviate the sickness that would inevitably occur on the crowded transports during a tedious voyage, boxes of sanitary stores were put in charge of Chaplains and surgeons and no doubt relieved and prevented much suffering.

While our troops were going victorious to the Great Review, there was a constant stream of released rebel prisoners from Point Lookout, on their way home. Ragged, faded, penniless, and going to poverty-stricken homes, some sick and feeble, wearily dragging themselves along, their condition was pitiable and it was clearly a work of Christian charity to relieve them. As far as possible this was done, and the men were grateful. These were the rank and file, sick and tired of the unsuccessful rebellion.

Among the latest offices of the Christian Commission at City Point was the relief of some of the last of the sick. A final clearing out of the hospitals (at Point of Rocks) sent two to three hundred convalescents to City Point and while awaiting the transport which was to convey them north, they were consigned to Distribution Barracks. On two mornings in succession, a cold rain storm prevailing, these men were sent from the barracks to the wharf, only to discover that the transport had not arrived, and to straggle back again through the mud and rain, to the cold and cheerless sheds, and to lie down wet at night, on a mud-matted floor with a shingled roof twenty feet above them for a blanket. Some were too feeble and exhausted to return to the barracks. To take them into our rooms, administer cordials and strengthening food, was a work of manifest necessity and mercy. Seven of these sick men begged the privilege of lying on our floor over the night; three of the seven were nearly helpless, and one was dangerously ill. They were cared for, and in the morning the sickest were assisted in getting to the

boat. They went away full of benedictions, — "God bless you for your deed."

By July 1st the troops had mainly gone, the Corps was on its way to Texas. The released rebel prisoners were scattering to their homes. Only two or three Regiments were left on guard-duty here. My health having become impaired by malarial fever, I was compelled to leave City Point and return north.

Perhaps I cannot better close my report than with the following incident. One dark and cold evening in March we had no meeting, but heard several times in the course of the evening the voice of singing proceeding apparently from the Chapel near by. On the day following, a soldier informed us that he and a brother soldier having come to the Chapel, and finding no meeting, resolved of themselves to enter and have a season of prayer. They sang, and prayed. Meanwhile an unconverted cavalryman came in and seated himself. The Holy Spirit flooded his heart as he sat there in the dark a listener to these two Christians. After a while he arose, and in deep emotion told his feelings, and asked that they would then and there pray for him. The three knelt in earnest prayer for the blessing, and on the following evening the soldier arose and testified that he had sought and found peace in believing.

In that rude chapel tent we trust many precious souls have come unto Jesus, and from it many a veteran Christian has gone forth girded afresh to work and fight for God.

GEO. N. MARDEN,

*Agent C. C., City Point, Va.*

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### **Depot Hospital, City Point.**

It is a cause of regret, that we have not been able to secure a detailed account of the work of the Commission at Depot Hospital, City Point. In the emergencies of army life, one agent after another, in charge of this station, was sent to other posts of responsibility.

The station had a four-fold character. It was headquarters of the Commission in the armies, operating against Richmond. It was the station at which the largest hospital work of the year, was done. It was the station from which an important religious work

was carried on among the troops in the defenses of City Point. It was the headquarters of the Individual Relief Department of the Commission.

Mr. Cole has described the construction and uses of the different buildings here erected, and spoken of the hospital work and nightly meetings in the chapel. Those meetings rarely failed to be solemn and impressive. One of the most interesting was on the night of the arrival of Sheridan's Cavalry.

They had broken camp in the Valley of Shenandoah some weeks before, had "raided" around Richmond, and now had come across from White House Landing, and camped three miles out from our chapel. When they left the valley they came from revival scenes, described by Mr. Miller in his report of the work in the Shenandoah. Many of them had set out on that great raid with a new love for Christ in their souls. Others were still seeking the Saviour, and as they were marching past City Point in the morning to take their place on the left for the advance on Petersburg, they heard a bell ring, an unusual camp sound, and when they learned that it was a call to worship in the Christian Commission chapel, they agreed to attend that night if they camped within five miles and could get permission. At night-fall there came dashing into our yard a company of cavalymen. They crowded into our chapel, already full. They told who they were, why they had come. It was the love of Christ constraining them. Some told a convert's four weeks' experience of religion in the field; others of their sense of guilt, and desire to be saved. They had come to ask us to pray for them. Many previous meetings had we seen in that chapel, but for power and interest and the very presence of God, this surpassed them all.

Rev. S. S. Ashley had charge of this chapel and hospital work, the first part of the year, until he was assigned to the charge of the station at Fortress Monroe. In March, Rev. T. K. Noble assumed the charge, and remained till the hospital was broken up by the withdrawal of troops.

Rev. E. Loomis had the direction of the work, by the delegates, among the troops in the defenses. It consisted mainly in distribution of reading, providing places of worship, preaching, and holding prayer-meetings. It was a wide and laborious field, but most faithfully worked by Mr. Loomis. It included the camp of dismounted

cavalry, by the banks of the river. With great difficulty, a "station" was set up among them, and a chapel erected. The cavalrymen were shy of it at first, but were gradually drawn in till it became the scene of some of our most wonderful revival meetings.

Mr. Loomis' work among the colored engineers and Quartermaster's men was very satisfactory. At his instigation, the Government erected a large chapel and school-room, and hundreds of Freedmen, under the teachings of the delegates and the agents at City Point, learned to read during the winter.

The Individual Relief Department, under the direction of H. C. Houghton, was organized more thoroughly during the year, in the furtherance of the great design of the Commission to be a medium between camp and home.

It was the business of this Department, to gather such information as would give satisfactory answers to inquiries by friends at home respecting the soldiers, for whose welfare they might feel solicitous, and to convey unasked, to distant friends, early news of the death or wounds or sickness of a soldier, and to transmit by express, the effects, or any mementoes of the dead, and to help the soldier in sending home his pay and surplus baggage. This last item grew to wondrous dimensions near the close of the war. Whenever the troops were being paid off, the amounts brought into our stations varied from *fifty thousand to two hundred thousand dollars per day*, in packages from fifteen to one hundred dollars each. And when, in March, the regiments were ordered to strip to light marching order, the overcoats and surplus blankets and under clothing of the winter must be thrown away unless it could be sent home. Adams Express Company had no office beyond City Point. The private had no way of getting his box to that office. The Christian Commission runs a gratuitous express line from the front to City Point, and thousands on thousands of boxes and packages of clothing are preserved for the soldier's use, when he should reach home. Mr. H. has delivered to Adams Express Company two car loads in a day. Only twice in all the insecurity and perils of receiving and carrying money among the camps, have we suffered loss of a few hundred dollars; once by the explosion of ammunition blowing into fragments the table at which the agent was receiving money, and once by robbery among bounty-jumpers.\* How large

\* In both these cases, the soldiers' families suffered no loss.

a portion of the millions of money expressed home by the Commission, was actually saved from squandering, can be estimated only by those who have seen how easily a soldier rids himself of three months' pay if he attempts to carry it in his pocket.

A graphic sketch, by Rev. Wm. A. Lawrence, of

ONE DAY'S WORK IN SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY,

will give a fair view of this free express business. It is taken from a letter, dated Headquarters Christian Commission, City Point, Virginia, March 30th, 1865:

"As we came down from Hatcher's Run, two days ago, we met Sheridan's Cavalry just in from the White House, filing off to the left of our line. On reaching City Point, I found a plan was on foot to pay these flying soldiers a flying visit, and in two hours brothers Loomis, Carpenter, Roberts, French and myself, were moving out with a four-horse wagon load of supplies. We came upon Sheridan's men at ten the next morning, encamped for the day, three miles north of Hatcher's Run. We soon had our wagon 'in position' and opened upon them with a brisk fire of testaments, hymn-books, papers, writing-paper, needles, thread, &c., till we had pretty effectually silenced calls in that direction. A box of Adams' Express envelopes packed among our stores, proved a special providence, for the Paymasters came in to camp that morning and commenced paying off the regiments.

"We gave out word at once that we would express it home for them as soon as we could pitch our tent and get things in readiness. We selected a central spot near General Merritt's headquarters, floated the blue C. C. flag, cooked our own dinner in the old Atlanta campaign style, deployed brothers French, Page and Hamilton (who come up as reinforcements) as skirmishers among the camp, pitched our tent, posted brother Roberts outside with the reading matter, stationery, &c., as a sort of "advance picket," while Loomis, Carpenter and I took up a strong position behind a breastwork of boxes at the entrance of the tent, and prepared to receive the 'enemy'—the love of which is the root of all evil—in a becoming manner.

"The boys were ready with their money as soon as we were ready to receive it, and all three fell hard at work. Carpenter, veteran C. C. cashier and expressman, was in his glory. Seated on a box of farina with an empty dry goods box for a desk, and a broken

blackberry cordial bottle for an inkstand, his coat off, and taking money and names, giving Testaments and answering questions, his face radiant with benevolence and fun,—you should have seen and heard him—"Who's the next man that wants to send his money home?" "John Monoye." "How d'ye spell it?" "J-o-h-n"—"No! I know how to spell *John*—the *last* name"—"Yes my friend I hope that book will be your constant companion"—"Write to U. S. Christian Commission, City Point, for your receipt if the money don't go right." "Who's the next man? A *bundle* to send home—Loomis, that's in your department. Don't hurry boys, we shall be here all night if you don't crowd us to death before." "One hundred dollars." "Mrs. or Miss?" "All right." "Writing paper? That man outside will give it to you." "Yes, get a permit from your company commander and Mr. Loomis there will send it for you." "You're very welcome, sir, your wife will be glad to get the money, no doubt." "Christian Kempfer? I hope you are a Christian indeed. How is that?" "How much did you say?" and so on till at eleven at night, when we closed the tent, we had received two hundred and fifty-seven packages of money containing in all over twenty-two thousand dollars. We wrote out invoices till one, then put the money under our heads for a pillow and slept soundly till daylight when we were roused up, and without time to make so simple a toilet as to put on our coats, commenced expressing money again in the greatest haste.

"The whole command were ordered to move at an early hour and this was the last chance the poor fellows might ever have to send their well-earned money to old father or wife or children. At nine o'clock we had expressed their hundred and sixty-nine packages, containing over thirty thousand dollars.

"Then came the bugle order "prepare to march," "mount," and in a few minutes all around us was as silent as a prairie. The whole command had vanished and our short work was done.

"We had been among them only twenty-four hours but it seemed like a year's work of common life so crowded were the hours with opportunities to serve these dear fellows that we can reach but seldom at the best. The pleasantest part of it all was, the faith the men had in us as members of the Commission. They handed over their money to us without asking a question or taking any kind of a receipt. We were Christian Commission and they were

all right, and in this confidence was their strongest security after all; for I would work my finger to the bone sooner than by any fault of mine such men should lose and such trust be betrayed. God grant that in due time the name of Christian may mean always, "not slothful in business," as well as "fervent in spirit,"—may mean all that is noble and lovely and trustworthy—and thanks be to Him if the Commission can do anything toward bringing back to Christ once more the blessed name of Christian."

A few days after the above letter was written, while the battle of Five Forks was raging, one of Sheridan's men galloping past a delegate caught sight of the badge, reined up, fumbled under his blouse, drew out a roll of bank bills and turning it into the delegate's hand, said, "Send this to my sister, Sarah J——, she lives in ——." Before the delegate could ask the name and regiment of the unknown cavalryman he had taken his place in the line ready for action. The money was sent, and we trust the brave man came out of the fight to confirm at home his confidence in the badge of the Christian Commission.

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#### Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

This veteran Commission station continued to do its work unto the end. Rev. W. L. Lisdale, agent in charge, by his faithfulness and unremitting toil, his zeal and love for soldiers, made it a continued power for good. Very many of our delegates going to the front here first entered army lines and received from Mr. T. their initiation to camp fare and lodging. The cheerful Christian hospitality of that canvas-covered cabin with its morning and evening altar worship fully supplied the lack of spring-mattresses and sumptuous living.

Hampton and Chesapeake hospitals kept full of sick and wounded, afforded a large field for delegate labor and distribution of stores. Our sign was an invitation gladly accepted by thousands of soldiers passing through to the front, to come in and get something to read, or make known some want hard to bear, though small in itself, and easily relieved from our stores.



**Department Military Division, Mississippi, Head-Quarters Nashville, Tennessee. T. R. Ewing, Esq. General Field Agent.**

This report gives in outline an account of Christian Commission operations from January first to August first, 1865.

NASHVILLE,

The base of military operations in this department naturally became the base of the Commission. Here all delegates reported for duty, and were assigned their respective fields of labor in the department. At this point all stores were received from the Central and Branch Offices of the Commission, and distributed among the troops or forwarded to other stations. Here the great amount of government business transacted, and the large number of troops continually in and around this city, made it the most important station in the department. Deacon Charles Crosby was agent in charge, and too much praise cannot be given Deacon Crosby, for the energy and judiciousness with which he discharged the very arduous and responsible duties of agent in charge. The number of government employees and hospital patients and soldiers in camp and barracks did not average less than thirty thousand. There were fewer difficulties in bringing relief to the soldiers at this than at most other stations. The government furnished us with free transportation and rent, including an elegant and commodious mansion quite well furnished and ample store-rooms and suitable reading and writing-rooms in most desirable locations; efforts to supply the physical wants of the soldiers were limited only by the amount of stores on hand. The advancement of the spiritual interests of the soldiers, was the prime object of the Commission: there were at this station special hinderances. It is difficult, without actual observation, to appreciate the fearfully demoralizing influences brought to bear on the soldiers by a corrupt city, where every unholy influence of gambling-hells, and doggeries, and dens of prostitution, is let loose on men away from home and tempted by the *ennui* of camp. The Commission by its delegates and stores, did its utmost to counteract these destroying agencies. It made itself as far as possible the chain to connect the soldier with his home. By all available and proper influences, it sought to restrain, and bring these endangered men to Jesus. Daily prayer-meetings were maintained in the basement of the M. E. Church, in several

hospitals, in what was called the "Zollicoffer Barracks," and in the "Lake Forest Tabernacle" in Edgefield, donated by Mr. Lynd. These meetings were well attended and under God were the means of comforting His children, restoring back-sliders and converting sinners. Much good was accomplished by organizing Christians into bands of brotherhood, by which they were brought together, strengthened and encouraged in the faith. The number of religious services varied with the ever fluctuating force of delegates: sometimes as many as forty were held on a single Sabbath.

The various bodies of troops were isolated from each other more at this post than at most others. This may partially account for the fact, that at no time was there marked general religious interest. It is with gratitude however that we record that never was there a total absence of special interest. Sometimes in the barracks, or in one or more hospitals or regiments, but always somewhere the work was encouraging: the Spirit of God was present and we rejoiced in seeing souls brought to Christ. In the main the delegates who labored here were instant in season and out of season, in their endeavors to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and wounded, and to lead all to enlist under the banner of King Immanuel. We cannot give them the personal mention they deserve, but without any seeming invidious distinction, mention may be made of Rev. M. C. Meech, and his labors. Himself constantly exposed to the disease for three months, from ten to twelve hours a day he visited desolate men in those pest wards. The disease seemed to be disarmed upon him by his devotion to its victims. No nurse, hardly a brother, could have been found so tireless and tender to these forlorn men. Great were his toils and privations, but greater his reward. Nearly one hundred by him were led to embrace the Saviour. I cannot close this brief notice of our work at Nashville, without referring to the labors of Mrs. E. P. Smith, who most efficiently superintended the diet-kitchens of the department, made our quarters in Nashville a real home to all connected with our work; carried delicacies to the very sick or badly wounded, and distributed reading, and talked of Christ to her "boys in blue," as she called them, wherever she found them. Her presence and attentions, brought a bright ray of home light to many a boy that never would see more of home in this world, and the earnest question from hospital cot and groups of men gathered about her ambulance in the camps, "When will you

come again?" will remain with her a more affecting and valued tribute than any that can be written.

#### CHATTANOOGA STATION

Was next in importance. It was surrounded by a large number of troops, and was to the Commission, as to the army, the seconding base to Knoxville and Dalton, and other points in East Tennessee and Northern Georgia. Rev. H. M. Holmes was agent in charge until assigned to the Fourth corps, when he was succeeded by Rev. T. S. Stivers. The great success attending the efforts of both these agents is the best evidence of their admirable fitness for this highly important trust. Meetings have been held at this post every night with scarce an interruption since the battle of Chickamauga. The troops were gathered so closely round the town, as to be easily summoned by our chapel bell from almost every part of the line of defences. Chattanooga was a purely military post, and offered far less degrading influences than Nashville. Nearly all the citizens had fled, or were sent away, a process that, wherever adopted, never fails to purify the moral atmosphere of a captured rebel city. For two years a soldiers' Christian League has been in most successful operation. During the series of meetings held here, the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit have come down upon thousands of sinful souls, bringing very many men back into Christ's kingdom. Surrounding circumstances were favorable, but to God's blessing on the prayers of delegates and soldiers and chaplains, members of the Christian League who believed and loved and worked together, are these happy results of religious effort at Chattanooga altogether due.

#### TALLAHOMA

was the place of rendezvous for the one year troops. From ten to fifteen thousand were in this camp of instruction under Major General Milroy. Inexperienced troops are always more needy than veterans. A great deal of sickness prevailed, and the list of mortality was heavy. Delegates found the chaplains, surgeons and all military officers most hearty in their co-operation for the relief of the suffering. General Milroy gave us a cordial welcome and every facility in his power. At his request delegates held services at his head-quarters every Sabbath.

## KNOXVILLE

station was unfortunate in not having a regular competent agent during January and February, but under the administration of that indefatigable Christian worker Rev. M. M. Longley, assisted by faithful delegates, it regained its former reputation as an agency of relief and of spiritual help to the soldiers in Knoxville and vicinity.

## BRIDGEPORT, ALABAMA.

Sergeant H. Clough, a detailed soldier who had charge of this station the previous year, on being mustered out at the expiration of his three years' service, found employment as a citizen at Bridgeport. In his love for the work and his comrades, the sergeant continued his labor for the Commission without charge for his services. Through his exertions a neat comfortable chapel was erected, with no expense except for the canvas roof. Mrs. Clough did a good work for the men in hospital, and made the Christian Commission quarters at Bridgeport a pleasant home for the delegates. About three thousand soldiers and sailors were within the reach of this station.

The station at *Huntsville*, Alabama, was also in charge of a detailed soldier, Isaac W. Coffin of the 18th Michigan. The reading and writing rooms were second in size and accommodations only to those at Nashville.

Stations without permanent agents were kept up at *Murfreesboro'*, *Columbia*, *Greenville*, Tenn., and at *Dalton*, Ga. These were well managed by delegates, and every where were of great advantage to the soldiers. Their appreciation was shown by their numerous unsolicited contributions. On one occasion two privates contributed twenty dollars each. The delegates consented to receive these offerings only when they saw that their refusal would grieve the brave and grateful boys, who insisted on their privilege to contribute with their friends at home for the support of the Commission. At all our stations such contributions were of daily occurrence—generally from the privates—not often so large as twenty dollars, but very often given at a sacrifice of personal comfort, and always with most grateful acknowledgement of what the Commission was doing for them and their comrades.

The work in the cavalry corps was under the superintendence of Rev. C. G. Armstrong, Chaplain 4th Michigan Cavalry, who acted

as agent for the Commission while the corps lay at Eastport, Mississippi, preparing for the famous raid under General Wilson, and also at Edgefield, Tenn., after its return. With chapel tents, stores and a few delegates, he accomplished much for the other regiments of the corps during these seasons of rest, without neglecting his own. For obvious reasons the Commission could seldom do any thing for the cavalry in an active campaign. The chaplain was absent on "twenty days leave" when the corps started on the raid, and finding it impossible soon to rejoin his command, he received a detail to United States Christian Commission, and went in charge of stores shipped to the 16th Corps, reaching it at Montgomery. Returning to Nashville he met with his regiment, and again set up a Christian Commission station in the cavalry rendezvous at Edgefield, where, with chapel tents and stores for distribution, he preached and labored most efficiently and successfully. By this connection with the Commission Chaplain Armstrong was able to accomplish a vast amount for other regiments, and at the same time do more for his own regiment than most chaplains with ordinary facilities.

#### FOURTH ARMY CORPS.

The commencement of 1865 found this corps still in pursuit of Hood's command. Turning from this pursuit it marched to Huntsville, Ala., in February, and remained until the middle of March. Having suffered greatly from lack of suitable food and clothing on the march, the post and various field hospitals were soon filled and hospital delicacies were in urgent demand. Our rooms were opened about the middle of January, and calls for supplies were unusually pressing, from the fact that no other organization for the relief of soldiers had an agency in the corps. The Commission could only attempt relieving the wants of the most needy. Our large supply of stores was altogether inadequate. The force of delegates was also much smaller than the exigencies required, but the faithful efforts of the little band told powerfully for good. We furnished the corps with nine chapel roofs, and under these and in the Cumberland Church of Huntsville, religious services were held by the delegates and chaplains. The chaplains of this corps, with but few exceptions, were very diligent and faithful—the right men in the right places. They and the delegates improved this season of rest to the troops. The supply of delegates by no means

equalled the demand for this harvest time; and I cannot restrain the conviction that the day of results, showing how white was this field for the reaper, will cause regret to the churches and their pastors, who did not heed the urgent entreaty that went forth from every part of this corps, "Come and teach us the way of life." How anxious these men were to hear the Word. How many did hear unto eternal life. How many more might have heard if the preachers had been sent! In the latter part of February, Rev. H. M. Holmes was assigned to this corps, and continued as corps agent until June, when the corps left the department for Texas. In March the corps was ordered into East Tennessee to intercept the retreat of Lee from Richmond. From the terminus of the railroad beyond Knoxville the corps marched, stopping at Bull's Gap one week, and other points for shorter periods. Wherever a halt was made, meetings were held at once, and with good results. Finally, Greenville was reached, and there was fair prospect of remaining in camp for a considerable time. A building was immediately secured, rooms opened, writing tables set up, and soon surrounded with soldiers writing home. Two churches each night were well filled with hearty worshippers. Chaplains and delegates united in the work. It went gloriously on, though the exciting news of Lee's surrender, and the talk of "mustering out," distracted somewhat from religious thought. Then, even while the air was yet vibrating with the soldiers' jubilant shouts, and the echoes of the cannon, the telegraph announced the assassination of the President! No pen or tongue can adequately describe the wild grief and rage of the soldiers. Their expressions were as varied as their characters, and taken together constituted a more eloquent and suggestive tribute to our fallen chief than stately oration can pronounce. Major General Stanley and staff and as many other officers and soldiers as could get in the church attended religious services appropriate to the occasion. The pious soldiers poured out their common grief in the ear of our Heavenly Father.

While the troops were lying at Greenville many cases of scurvy appeared. Pickles and other anti-scorbutics were loudly called for. The swollen streams had carried off the bridges, and the "dirt roads" were otherwise in their worst winter condition; but the Quarter master furnished wagons, and Mr. Holmes pushing through his supplies was more than repaid by the grateful acknowledgments

of suffering men. No one can know the worth of a pickled cucumber till he has seen it devoured by a soldier who has marched for weeks on hard-tack and pork. With the first train that for more than a year had entered the town, through the favor of the Chief Engineer of the Construction Corps, a car laden with Christian Commission stores was brought in. Just as we were ready to repeat this supply, the corps moved back by rail to Nashville, and went into camp by Divisions about five miles from the city. The 1st on the Charlotte, the 2nd on the Harding, and the 3rd on the Murfreesboro Pike. This proximity to the base of supply gave an unwonted opportunity for carrying on our work with vigor and success. A station was established near the centre of each Division, and three delegates assigned to each station. Each delegate ministered to all the regiments of a Brigade that were destitute of chaplains; some to five, none to less than three. Every night services were held in the chapel at each station, and the delegates preached as frequently as they were able during the day in regiments. More chapel roofs were furnished this corps, and under these and in the open air the delegates and chaplains proclaimed the messages of salvation. Never was a wider door opened, and seldom has a golden opportunity been more heartily embraced. The beautiful groves where our soldiers were encamped were resonant with the praises of our God. These labors were greatly blessed in the reviving of Christians, and in the convincing and converting of sinners. But there are always hindrances to every thing good; the chief one here was the excitement in regard to going to Texas. Many were extremely opposed to going so far from home after the war had ceased. Some were almost mutinous, but no serious cotbreak occurred. Unquestionably, the religious services throughout the corps did very much to calm angry minds and dispose the troops to obedience.

The favorable influence of the Commission was felt and acknowledged by officers and soldiers. Said a captain to a delegate: "You do not see the result of your labor and preaching as *we* do. It reaches every part of our Division; card-playing, swearing and theft have perceptibly decreased." Said a soldier: "My comrades, most of you know me well and will think it strange to hear me speak in such a meeting as this, I never did such a thing before. You know me as the most profane man in our regiment. I have denied the existence of God and scorned religion. When you saw the light in my tent

late at night, and supposed I was writing the history of our regiment, I was carousing. I ask your forgiveness. I now am convinced there is a God, and ask his forgiveness. Do try and forget all I have said and done. By God's help I will be a Christian. Pray for me." A German Catholic came into the meeting and the Spirit of God changed his heart. He proved to be a live Christian. He read and translated tracts and papers to his comrades, and distributed the Scriptures among them, refuting objections and urging the claims of the gospel upon them. He said: "I was not satisfied before. I thought I could not get my sins pardoned without going to Chicago. I came in here, was convinced and converted, and now I can kneel down anywhere and God forgives my sins. I can talk right to Jesus. O how differently I feel!" and his countenance testified to the joy that was in his heart. No class of men in the army more highly appreciate our work than the faithful chaplains. Many regarded it as necessary to the accomplishment of their own. Had the Christian Commission done nothing beyond provoking these brethren to love and good works, aiding them with reading and stores, and strengthening their hands and encouraging their hearts, as it has done, these results alone would have been worth all it has cost to maintain the Commission. Communion services were held in each Division. Hundreds gladly embraced the precious privilege of commemorating the Saviour's dying love. It was touching to notice strong men, heroes of a score of battles, weeping like children as they heard and obeyed the command, "Do this in remembrance of me." Our delightful work in this corps ended with its departure for Texas.

#### SIXTEENTH AND TWENTY-THIRD ARMY CORPS.

Rev. Hugh McLeod, a model corps agent, was with the Twenty-third Corps, when General Thomas drove the remnant of the completely shattered and demoralized rebel army, across the Tennessee river. The weather was cold and wet, and there was much to be done for the relief of the sick and weary, constantly falling out of line by the way. From our station at Columbia, very timely relief was furnished to men in hospital and on the march. A car-load of vegetables, pushed through on the first opening of the road, was a priceless gift to the troops at Columbia. From Columbia to Clifton, it was impossible, for want of transportation, to follow with



supplies. From Clifton the Twenty-third corps was ordered to North Carolina to join General Sherman. Mr. McLeod, who had constantly been with these troops, since the commencement of the Atlantic campaign, reluctantly left them to join the Sixteenth corps at Eastport, Mississippi. Here a number of delegates were at work under direction of Chaplain Armstrong, for the men of the Sixteenth, and for the cavalry corps, close at hand. There were no buildings, and the weather was extremely severe, but Major General A. J. Smith very generously gave the Commission his headquarters boat, and pitched his tent on shore. Through this act of kindness, the stores of the Commission were protected, and the delegates made much more comfortable and efficient in their work than they could otherwise have been. A large shipment was made to Eastport, but before its arrival the Sixteenth was aboard transports under orders for Mobile. At the personal solicitation of General Smith, the goods marked for Eastport, were, at Paducah, transferred to one of his transports, and with the agent, taken along to New Orleans and then to Dauphin Island. Here, Mr. McLeod, with his canvas-covers, erected a chapel fifty by twenty-five feet, as he had done during the stay at New Orleans. The Government saw-mill furnished seats, and the wreck of a vessel on the beach, contributed material for a pulpit. The willing soldiers closed the pulpit end of the sanctuary, with small trees from the swamps. The lanterns from the ambulances, added to those of the Christian Commission, lighted the church at night, in spite of the ever fresh sea-breezes. Earnest men filled the tent at the first meeting. The marked interest that began at New Orleans at once manifested itself, and continued to deepen and widen during our two weeks' stay on the Island. Here daily work was substantially as follows:—Prayer meeting at 9 A. M., continuing usually two hours. Soldiers coming in and going out, as camp duties required, kept the tent all the time well filled without disturbing the meeting. The two hours were all fully occupied with brief speaking, singing and praying, and frequently great emotion was exhibited. An officer said: "I have been accustomed, from early life, to much that wealth and position afford, and have known as much as most men of worldly pleasure, but I assure you, my fellow-soldiers, I have never seen any place so charming to me as this tent with its floor of sand, nor have I ever known such happiness as I have found

here." And he bowed and thanked God amid fast-flowing tears. By such affecting scenes were these morning meetings, rendered most tenderly precious. From 1 to 5 P. M. reading-matter, writing materials and other articles, were distributed. The men generally went to their little "dog-tents" to read and write, but some remained in the Commission tent. Sometimes more than forty were sitting on the sand, using the rough benches as writing tables, in lieu of better ones not to be had. In the evening came the preaching service, which was prolonged, with other services, until 9 P. M. At request of soldiers a prayer meeting was appointed for the half hour preceding the preaching, and this season was so fully occupied by our soldier following another in quick succession, that it was difficult to break in upon them. If any came out of mere curiosity, they were soon brought in spite of themselves into sympathy with these soldiers wrestling with God for his blessing upon themselves and for the conversion of their comrades, who loved not the Lord Jesus. It was easy to preach. The most common scripture truths were all powerful. Could our tent have held six thousand, instead of six hundred, it would certainly have been filled. Soldiers would say: "Chaplain, we can't get in your tent. We have come, and come, and we can't get near your tent for the crowd outside. We *must* have meetings in our regiments; can you give us hymn-books?" "Certainly, and we will gladly give you all other possible help." So various other meetings were commenced. There seemed to be but few indifferent soldiers on the Island. Many expressed joy in having found the Saviour, and thousands more were inquiring the way of salvation. Five chaplains gave constant and most valuable aid. Our most difficult duty was the endeavor so to control the strong tide of emotion, as to make the most of it in establishing solid religious character. We aimed to hold up Christ constantly in view. Orders to move were received late on Saturday night, and next morning we were on the march. It was hard to leave the barren island made so precious by the favor of God. The soldiers continued to pray that morning until the tent was actually taken away, and after the canvas had been rolled up there they were yet kneeling under heaven's canopy, those earnest Christian soldiers praying God's protection on them and their comrades in the terrible work before them, for their country and for dear ones far away, whom

they might never see again. Many a brave voice faltered in this last petition.

During the investment of the strong forts defending Mobile, the work of the Commission was limited, to a great extent, to the Division Hospitals of the 16th corps; but the revival spirit was maintained in many regiments. A large and well assorted shipment from Cincinnati was received. Two weeks in the trenches without rest and with but little apparent progress had created a depression and a pressing general need. Chaplains united with us in distributing the goods. The suffering were tenderly cared for and the dead given a Christian burial. Three weeks of siege passed and Mobile was ours. Again marching orders were received. Transportation was cut down by stringent orders to the lowest practicable point, but a six-mule team was cheerfully furnished to haul Christian Commission stores. From this wagon all along the two hundred miles to Montgomery, delicacies were issued as the sick required. About noon on the 14th day after leaving Fort Blakely, we saw the city General Smith designed capturing, but General Wilson had anticipated him, so that our entrance was peaceful and we thanked God for it. None wanted more fighting. Enough of war horrors had been experienced. Then came the glad tidings of peace; the giant rebellion was at length crushed and the government restored. All acknowledged God's hand in the happy issue of the dire struggle. Officers and soldiers openly ascribed their success to Him who ruleth over all. Our exultation was short. The assassin's dark and infamous deed caused joy to flee and the desire for vengeance to fill the heart of the soldiery. But the word of command was needed to call forth the swiftest and most terrible retaliation. Something was needed to calm the angry minds and soothe the sorrowing hearts. Numerous religious services were held and the interest rapidly increased. Where there was no minister the meetings were conducted by pious officers and soldiers. The thought of home was an element of power. The soldier desired to meet his friends free from the stains of sin contracted in camp; only the blood of Jesus could avail for this. Almost every one seemed to want to come to Christ.

Chaplain Armstrong arrived from Cincinnati with a large and very valuable assortment of goods. This arrival was most opportune. The sick of the 16th, and several hundred wounded of General

Wilson's corps greatly needed stimulants, cordials, delicacies, clothing, pads and rags. No article of that excellent shipment came amiss in the seven hospitals of Montgomery. From 7 A. M. to 4 P. M. the soldiers from the regiments filled our large rooms. At 11½ A. M. the prayer meeting began, the soldiers readily dropping their pens and heartily joining in praise and prayer. They thanked God for home, country, peace, and the tokens of kindness they received from home through the Commission. These articles from home were indeed means of grace. As our rooms were on the most crowded corner of the city the singing drew a wonderful variety of costume and character into the meeting, yet perfect order and good feeling always prevailed. This was our central meeting. As soon as it was over the soldiers resumed letter writing and we continued the distribution of goods, endeavoring, of course, to accomplish the utmost possible good with what was intrusted to our care. In four weeks forty thousand sheets of paper and an equal number of envelopes were given out, and this was but little more than one *per* man. Several barrels of fresh reading matter were received from New Orleans. A Bible Agent turned over about two hundred Bibles and one thousand copies of the New Testament, the balance of a grant by the American Bible Society to the late Confederate army. Many rebel soldiers on their way home called for and received supplies of reading. Men clad in blue and in gray uniforms mingled in our rooms in most pleasant intercourse. No ill feeling manifested itself on either hand. Henceforth all would be Union men, true to the starry banner of Freedom. Most of the troops were leaving, some for the North and others for Texas; Mr McLeod had a severe congestive chill, so the few undistributed stores were placed in charge of a chaplain; and Mr. McLeod and Chaplain Armstrong steamed North on a transport filled with wounded. This work of the Commission in the Sixteenth corps received the warmest commendations from Major General Smith, and we trust that in "that day" it will be found to have had the approval of the Master.

The Loan Libraries sent to hospitals, batteries and regiments have been a great help to our work in this department. Testimonials abound on every hand to their fine adaptation to the soldier's want. No money for any reading has been better expended than that put into these choice, interesting, instructive and, at the reduced prices for which they were bought, very cheap books.

The Christian Commission ladies, who have labored in fifteen Diet Kitchens, have accomplished a large work for the soldiers, of which no record will be made except in the hearts of suffering men, who received from their hands such ministration as only those who represented mother and sister could give. In addition to superintending the preparation of suitable dishes for the sick, these ladies have done the work of delegates in the distribution of home gifts, writing letters, reading to the convalescents, and in all things declaring Jesus.

Rev. W. F. Baird, Agent of the American Bible Society, and also bearing our commission, has labored most earnestly and cordially with us. By his industry and wise management we were able, through the munificent grants of the Bible Society, to keep the army well supplied with the Scriptures.

From first to last we have received only kindness from Major General Thomas and his chief of staff, General Whipple. They have shown a personal knowledge of and interest in our work, which we hardly expected from those whose minds were occupied with so great responsibilities. To General Donaldson, chief quartermaster, and Dr. Wm. Clendenin, Medical Director, at Nashville, we are indebted for many facilities that no others could give, and without which our work would have been often hindered and greatly limited.

To all my associates in the field I desire to tender hearty thanks for their kindness and efficient co-operation, through which the Commission has been able to accomplish so much in this department for the glory of God in the relief of suffering and the saving of souls.

T. R. EWING,

*General Field Agent, United States Christian Commission.*

### **The Commission on the Gunboats in the Mississippi River.**

UNITED STATES STEAMER "KATE," below St. Louis,  
September 3, 1865.

REV. LEMUEL MOSS,

*Home Secretary United States Christian Commission.*

DEAR BROTHER:—Below is some account of the Commission's work in the Mississippi Squadron.

A graduate at Rochester University in 1862, and for some time

a student in the Theological Seminary, failing health led me into the naval service. Desiring to extend the influences of the Christian Commission to the navy, so far as I could, I obtained a commission of Dr. Nathan Bishop of New York. When detailed to this squadron in June 1864, I found that the vessels had been thought inaccessible, except when stationed where local agents could distribute papers on board; which was sometimes done, though of course only a small portion of the squadron enjoyed this benefit.

After a trip through the whole fleet from Cairo to New Orleans and return, I became convinced that it was entirely feasible to send delegates from vessel to vessel, and enable the seamen thus to enjoy their personal influence.

I made forthwith every exertion by correspondence and conversation with local agents to carry my views into effect.

The first result was that sometime last Fall packages began to be regularly furnished by the Cairo Rooms for every vessel in the squadron, directed to the care of the commanding officer of each. The authorities at the Naval Station, Mound City, promised co-operation, and repeatedly ordered the negligent officer in charge of the naval mail to put the bundles of papers, &c., on the bi-monthly dispatch boats. Thus a large amount of reading matter was distributed until the breaking up of the squadron. This good work is chiefly to be attributed to brother McClure, now at the St. Louis Rooms, and to brother Wykoff, then, and still in the rooms at Cairo. They both entered with zeal into all the plans, and faithfully kept the Commandant at Mound City informed of the fact when his subordinates failed in giving efficient co-operation.

After this plan was in operation, I met brother McIntyre, Corresponding Secretary of Peoria Branch, at the Cairo Rooms; and he gave me encouragement to believe that an agent or delegate would be sent down through the fleet on one of the dispatch boats, to survey the field and lay out the naval branch of the work. I introduced him to the then Fleet Captain, Lieutenant Commander Grier, now of the Naval Academy, and a Christian gentleman, who promised passes on any dispatch-boat, and every other facility in his power. Admiral Lee was subsequently visited, and his hearty consent obtained to visit any vessels under his command. About the time of General Hood's invasion, a large portion of the squadron were in Tennessee River, under the Admiral's immediate command. About

that time, to my great delight, brother Wykoff, (of Cairo rooms,) passed through a large number of the vessels in that river. Never was a delegate better suited to the work. He was quiet, and yet incisive. He never obtruded; was almost to a fault fearful of disturbing the jealous regularity of the navy, yet, somehow had every body by the button in that persuasive, Christian way that disarmed all hostility to private, personal conference, and to which I cannot forbear paying a tribute. He created an enthusiasm on our vessel, (the "St. Clair,") and during the days passed with us held meetings, distributed little books and papers, hunted out Christians, got them together by the hand, and in short won all classes into such harmony, that our meetings, previously held, were re-invigorated, and the most heedless could say after he had gone, "I wish Mr. Wykoff could be with us all the time."

\*Similar success was met with on other vessels, and it was hoped that the committee now knew how the work was to be done, and would not let it rest. He himself wished no more interesting field, albeit a hard one. But the paramount claims of the army called him off to the work already established and not to be neglected. At different times delegates came on board, and Chaplain Armstrong, for a time in charge of the station in the camp, at Eastport Miss., made a trip with us down the river to Paducah. This was of scarcely less interest than the former, though only the "St. Clair" enjoyed its benefits.

We used to hold delightful meetings on Sabbath evening in the steerage. Five of our officers professed religion, and took active part, alternately leading, while I led the music with a beautiful Cabinet Organ. Our other officers, as well as the crew, were very attentive, and often and often have thoughts of home and mothers and wives and children drawn from their brave hearts the grief, and filled their eyes with the tears they were not ashamed to show. The change in the vessel, and especially in the officers' messes, was wonderful, and strangers have spoken of the "St. Clair" as the most homelike vessel in the service. The Captain (J. S. French, A. V. Lieutenant,) was a truly eloquent old salt-water hero, a wonder indeed to all who remembered under what influences his hairs had grown white, and with how little opportunity to acquire his golden speech.

Almost sacred are those memories.

This is, in sum, what I know of the Christian Commission's work in the Mississippi Squadron, and I have dwelt at so much length on the subject, because I do not know that anything has been put on record concerning your work in this part of the navy.

Yours, truly,

E. H. JOHNSON,

*A. A. Paymaster, and Delegate U. S. Chris. Com.*

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### **Cleveland Army Committee.**

The Cleveland Army Committee was organized May 15th 1864. Previously to that time, the suggestion had frequently been made to some of our leading Christian citizens of the importance of forming a branch in this city, but the efficient organization of the "Soldiers Aid Society" had, for some time, so fully occupied the field in soliciting supplies in the city and northern Ohio for the army, that another organization was not thought necessary, and it was not until we saw the importance of combining the sanitary and religious work among the soldiers, on a plan of giving personal relief and benefit to the soldiers, both in body and soul, by direct ministrations and distributions of Christians as voluntary unpaid laborers, that we entered upon the work.

The great success and good accomplished by the Christian Commission, under the blessing of God, is apparent to all. The testimony of soldiers to our own delegates is sufficient to more than compensate the feeble efforts of the Cleveland Branch.

The following are short extracts from letters of our own delegates showing their success in doing good, and how the sick and wounded appreciated their labors. Says one: "We are greeted as welcome messengers. Delegates of the Commission coming right from the people, and deeply feeling the soldier's wants, receiving no compensation except the satisfaction of doing good, are enabled to reach their hearts, as no others can;—even the unconverted, whose hearts are hardened by many years of sinful life, soften under the kindness of those whose actions show a Christian spirit. As we pass from one to another of the sick and wounded, we are greeted with a 'God bless you. God bless the Christian Commission.



How much more indebted to those who kindly remembered us in these trying times.” From another: “It was plain that the labors of the Christian Commission were thoroughly appreciated by the soldiers, and I saw evidences especially, that the wounded *rebels* were surprised and softened by ministrations of those who gave them Christian compassion and aid.”

Since the organization of the Cleveland Army Committee, we have sent sixty-seven delegates. No complete statement of their labors can be made. We have been careful, under the scrutiny of a special committee to whom all applications were made, to send none but first-class men, and we have the assurance of the officers, under whose direction they served, that they were such. Some three or four of our delegates have been employed as permanent delegates or agents, and have labored in the army and in hospitals from three to fifteen months.

It was sometime after our organization before we solicited sanitary supplies for the use of our society, preferring to turn into the channel of the “Soldiers’ Aid Society” what was offered us, so that the amount of stores received and forwarded by us is small if compared with organizations in other cities. We have forwarded three hundred and fifty packages: most of these were sent to Philadelphia and Nashville, to be forwarded to the hospitals and battle-fields where they were most needed. Besides, frequent donations of stores have been made to the Cleveland Hospital, on the Heights. This hospital was also furnished with a loan library containing one hundred and sixty volumes.

In January, 1865, one thousand dollars were appropriated for the purchase of two chapel-tents, which were sent to Stevenson’s Station in the Shenandoah Valley; from letters received in regard to the meetings held in these tents, we regard it as one of the best investments we have made. God has blessed the preaching in them to the conversion of many souls.

The Treasurer’s Report shows that the whole amount of money received is about fifteen thousand dollars; paid out fourteen thousand five hundred dollars; leaving a balance on hand of about five hundred dollars.

In behalf of the Commission,

JOSEPH PERKINS,  
*For the Secretary.*

**Kentucky Branch, United States Christian Commission.**

At the commencement of the year 1865, the Kentucky Branch, of the United States Christian Commission was vigorously prosecuting its work in the hospitals, camps and barracks, which had previously constituted the field of its operations. There has been no time since its organization when every point of the field was more accessible and inviting; nor has it been our good fortune at any time to be in a better condition to meet the various demands for means and laborers.

Rev. J. F. Loyd has been in charge of the station work, and his excellent wife has taken charge of our delegates' Home, and, by the concurrent and enthusiastic testimony of all delegates, has succeeded in making it a very pleasant rest for delegates passing through, and a pleasant home for all who labor here. We desire to bear testimony to the efficient management of our affairs by Mr. Loyd, to his rare devotion to his Master's service, and to his constant cheerful toil in behalf of our soldiers, that seemed accepted every day with new gladness. For the details of our work in the camps and hospitals, we refer to his report given below.

Our work has had a three-fold character,—collecting funds, attending to the army work within our reach, and forwarding or purchasing supplies for the Commission stations in Tennessee and Georgia. At times this latter part of our work was no slight labor.

At the crushing in of the shell of the rebellion our supplies and delegates were suddenly diminished. The people at home did not seem to realize that the want of both would be equally felt till the army was disbanded; and that men broken down by their hardships and exposures during the war, would need as much care and attention as ever. Special appeals for needed means were therefore sent out, and by the blessing of God a hearty response was given.

The most remarkable event of the year with us was the rendezvous of General Sherman's army near the city in June, waiting to be mustered out. A large portion of the regiments were without chaplains, and it devolved on the Commission to supply that deficiency by its delegates, or see the war-worn veterans, who had periled their all for the salvation of our Government, neglected in their temporal and spiritual necessities.

About the commencement of the year, by the aid of the Cincin-

nati Branch, we were enabled to put up two chapels, one at Brown Hospital, and the other near Barracks No. 1, and Exchange Barracks. A delegate made Brown Hospital, with its seven hundred patients, his field of labor, and held meetings in the chapel there frequently during the week as well as on Sundays, with evident tokens of the divine favor. At the chapel in the city, prayer meetings were held in the afternoon, and preaching services at nights for a long time, with special evidences of good accomplished. Tables were arranged for writing, and supplied with stationery and good reading, so that it was occupied for a reading and writing room when not required for public religious services. In the course of the summer, the barracks were removed from the locality to a square on Broadway; and the chapel became less available for meetings, but was still used for reading and writing, and also for the storing of our supplies, whence they were distributed to the hospitals, camps and to the numerous soldiers who made personal application.

The labors of the Commission in the *diet kitchens* of the hospitals—twelve of which were under our care—have been eminently successful. The ladies employed have won for themselves and the Commission, a high reputation. As the hospitals have one after another closed, that work has contracted, till the close of Crittenden Hospital in October, left us no further field of hospital operations.

After the mustering out of General Sherman's Army, the closing of most of the hospitals, and the return to their homes of a large part of the forces below, comparatively little was left to be done. We had no delegate on the field for a while, till Rev. W. W. Meech, whose labors for the Commission from the beginning have been noticed in former reports, returning from Nashville, labored with all diligence night and day, preaching, distributing books, papers, tracts, testaments, and stationery among the troops yet at the post of Louisville, and to regiments on their way home, besides dispensing to the various hospitals whatever supplies still remained for their use. While in the midst of these labors, he was solicited by the Field Secretary at Philadelphia to go to Texas in the service of the Commission. He left us on the last of October for that purpose.

We are not willing to close this our final report without mention of our gratitude for favors received from many sources. The military commanders, the medical and quartermaster's departments have refused us no favor. On the contrary, their hearty good will has

been constantly shown in the manner they have extended all possible facilities for our work. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad has carried all the delegates for the Army of the Cumberland free during the war. To the courtesy of B. Marshall, Esq., Superintendent, we are greatly indebted for very frequent transportation of hospital stores on the mail train, when time was everything to the suffering men at the front. Adams and the American Express Company have given large amounts in free freight, and have often helped our wounded at Nashville and beyond by giving hospital stores the preference. Telegraph lines north have invariably sent our messages free. Brinley, Dodge & Company, and A. McBride, Esq., have given us free storage. J. T. Tompkins, Esq., has shown us kindness in the substantial way of rent free. Surgeons Larrabee, Octerlong, Rodgers, and Koehler have kindly and successfully attended our delegates in sickness without charge. Indeed we can say that we have found only friends in all the government officials, from the train guards and wagon masters to the Major General commanding the department. We have received such favors and consideration as are given only to a work which men appreciate and love.

No delegate in our field has died during the year. Mrs. Isabella Fogg, one of our Diet Kitchen managers, was severely injured by a fall while on duty in Floating Hospital. She reached Cincinnati on her way home, but was able to proceed no farther. She now lies in St. Luke's Hospital of that city, totally, and we fear permanently, disabled. Congress has by special act put her upon the United States pension list. We have also to mourn over the death of our two best friends in the Christian Commission work, James Parkhill, Esq., and James M. Stevens, Esq. They died during the year, and we have missed their aid, their council, and cheer. We trust it is some alleviation to the grief of family friends, as it is to ours, to remember their hearty interest in, and efficient aid to the Christian Commission.

We render humble unfeigned thanks to Almighty God for all His gracious manifestations to us and the cause he has permitted us to serve during these terrible years of war. We trust the good done has not ended with the close of our Commission, but that all who have labored will continue to reap a rich spiritual harvest in their

own souls, and will see the good seed springing up around them in all the years that are to come.

J. EDWARD HARDY,  
*Chairman Executive Committee.*

J. RUSSELL, *Secretary.*  
Louisville, Kentucky, December, 1865.

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### Report of J. F. Loyd, Commission Agent at Louisville.

The beginning of the year found us with crowded hospitals, resulting from the battle at Nashville on December 15th. At the same time, new recruits were hastening by thousands to reinforce the Army of the Cumberland, and to take the places of veterans whose terms of service were expiring. Every effort was made to supply these with testaments, tracts, and knapsack-books; and every night, at Barracks No. 1, and Exchange Barracks, and sometimes at the Soldiers' Home, meetings were held, often with evident tokens of divine approval. Early in January, the Cincinnati branch sent us a frame chapel, which was erected on Seventh street quite near the Barracks. This served as a reading and writing-room from half past eight in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon, which was the hour of our daily prayer-meeting. Religious services were held here also in the evenings, and twice on Sabbath. About the 1st of May the barracks were removed to the corner of Broadway and Fifteenth streets, and, through the kindness of the surgeon in charge and his assistant, a commodious room was fitted up for us, which we furnished with tables, library and seats, and dedicated to divine services. Our daily prayer-meeting and evening services were held here, while the chapel on Seventh street served as a storing and dispensing and, reading-room. Cincinnati also sent us another chapel, which we erected at Brown Hospital, three miles from the city. In each of these chapels precious souls were converted through God's blessing on the labors of the chaplains and our delegates.

Our station was highly favored as to delegates. The brethren, almost without exception coming to work for God and for souls, with the intention of spending their full term, were zealous, faith-

ful, and successful. The Lord blessed them, and we shall long remember the gracious influences we often realized in holding our weekly Conference meetings for mutual edification and encouragement.

Our work included four hospitals at New Albany, two in Jeffersonville, one at Madison, seven in and around Louisville, and one at Camp Nelson, Bowling Green, Ky.,—together with Taylor Barracks; Barracks No. 1 and Exchange Barracks on Main street; barracks on Market street; military prisons, Soldiers' Home; and the camps temporarily established near the city.

We distributed reading matter to stations along the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and its branches, and sent weekly supplies also to Frankfort, Lexington, Camp Nelson and other places in Kentucky. We also forwarded to Vicksburg, boxes of reading matter to supply our returning prisoners.

In June, the returning legions of Sherman having been ordered to Louisville, we made arrangements to do what we could for their comfort. Large shipments of stores were received from Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Purchases were made also in Louisville. The number of delegates was inadequate to the work, yet the following brief summary will show that they were not idle:—

From June 4th to August 16th,

Sermons and Addresses, . . . . .	170
Individuals prayed with, . . . . .	168
“ conversed with on their religious state, . . . . .	8,424
Testaments distributed, . . . . .	9,290
Hymn and Psalm books distributed, . . . . .	7,168
Religious papers, “ . . . . .	62,090
Pages of Tracts, “ . . . . .	1,755,635
Sheets of Paper, “ . . . . .	66,495
Envelopes, “ . . . . .	66,495
Letters written, . . . . .	273

In addition to the vegetables, fruits, and clothing received in boxes and barrels, nine hundred and thirty-four dollars were expended in the Louisville daily markets for hospital delicacies, during these two months.

Summing up our whole distribution from the 1st of January,

we have, at a reasonable estimate, furnished to the soldiers in camp and hospital \$30,000 worth of hospital stores.

The special diet kitchens, twelve of which were under our care, have been eminently successful. The ladies there employed have won for themselves and the Commission the confidence, esteem and affections of those with whom and for whom they labored; thousands of sufferers have found in their nicely prepared delicacies kind and sympathetic services and words, a partial substitute for home and its comforts.

God has blessed us and gladdened our hearts by permitting us to see some fruit of our toil. As an evidence that our work was attended with the divine sanction and blessing we present the following transcripts from our station register:

"I have found about twenty, during the week, who were seeking religion."—*W. Copelin.*

"We have conversed faithfully with the sick and wounded, and found many true seekers, and many true Christians."—*H. Law.*

"There is a growing interest in our meetings and at nearly every meeting through the week some were present, who were anxiously seeking the salvation of their souls; also a number, who are confined to their beds, are resolved to seek salvation."—*W. Copelin.*

"At a meeting held at Taylor Barracks, the Lord was present; and twenty soldiers—many of them weeping—came forward for prayers."—*D. Stirling.*

"It is enough to move the stoutest heart to see the soldiers leaving their beds and hobbling along upon their crutches and gathering around the delegate, to hear of Christ and the resurrection—many of them having left an arm, a foot, or a leg upon some hard-fought field. They seem to be much more susceptible to good impressions than our regular congregations at home.

"The men are impatient to get home. A ward-master said to me 'your talk is better than fifty bayonets for a guard.' This has been a week of interest at the Commission chapel. On Monday evening eighteen, who were not members of any church, arose for prayers. On the following evening seven of that number testified that they had found peace. On the following night this note was laid on my table: 'Dear Chaplain—As I will be on guard to-night, I take the liberty of sending you my name. I am resolved

to go home a better man than when I left it.' A sergeant from Illinois, who was dying, sent for me. His blood had almost ceased to circulate, and the death-sweats were upon him. I conversed plainly and earnestly with him. He asked me to repeat the Lord's prayer. I asked him to repeat it with me. He did so, but could scarcely whisper the closing sentence. I endeavored to encourage him, prayed with him, and tried to point him to Christ. He seemed deeply penitent; I reminded him of the hymn commencing,

'Alas! and did my Savior bleed,'

told him I would repeat it, and he might make it all the sentiment of his own heart, though too weak to repeat it. I commenced and went slowly through. As I proceeded his emotion increased. When I came to these lines:

'But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
The debt of love I owe.'

"He added—

'Here Lord I give myself away  
'Tis all that I can do.'

He then said, 'I do feel that God accepts me through Christ.' In a few moments he raised and clasped his cold hands in joy and triumph. Christ had given him the victory over the last enemy."  
*F. Ball.*

"I have greatly enjoyed this term of service. In Brown General Hospital, I had the pleasure of seeing much fruit in the happy conversion of several individuals, and in the edification and encouragement of many who had wandered from the 'good 'old way' in which they had walked at home."—*J. W. Shirer.*

These, quotations from the delegates day-book kept at the Home, could be greatly multiplied, but these are enough to show the spirit and success with which the brethren labored. It was indeed a pleasant and blessed work. We felt the presence and power of the Master. Our hearts were knit together in love. To all these brothers, delegates of the Christian Commission at Louisville, I desire to return grateful acknowledgements for their co-operation and kindness. To the committee and secretary I am under obligations for the continued favor in which they have held the work under my directions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. LOYD,

*Agent United States Christian Commission.*



**Report of Rev. W. A. Lawrence of March from Atlanta, and work at Savannah, Georgia.**

SAVANNAH, JANUARY 15TH, 1865.

REV. E. P. SMITH,

DEAR SIR.

Our mission in this Army is over. I leave for New York to-morrow; and now I ought to give you some slight sketch at least of our work since we left Atlanta. I almost wish we could forget the Commission and its duties for a moment, that I might describe a few of the striking features of this wonderful campaign. The long line of fire came pouring down on us at Atlanta like a column of volcanic lava as Sherman rolled up the railroad with him and as the rear guard came down from the Etowah. Then the awful burning of Atlanta—the long lines of blue moving silently away from the burning city and plunging into the unknown forests—who could tell whither? Then the incidents of the campaign, the crossing of swamps and rivers, the building of bridges and corduroy roads, the taking of Milledgeville, the burning of houses and depots, and railroads and bridges and villages and everything that *would* burn—the “foraging liberally on the country,” the investment of Savannah, the taking of Fort McAllister, the arrival of supplies, the evacuation of the city, our triumphal entry and general jubilee,—all these would interest you much, but I have to ask you, instead, to follow the fortunes of your two agents, Arthur Lawrence and myself as we take up the line of march with the Army; Arthur in the right wing, General Howard’s, and I in the left, General Slocum’s.

Our object in accompanying the army, was to make ourselves acquainted with its wants and the way to meet them, and be ready to introduce such men or supplies as might meet us, at the terminus of the campaign to the Army, so as to render the most efficient assistance possible.

We expected that a march of fifteen miles a day with the delay and labor connected with three meals and camping at night would take all our time on the march, and it very nearly did it. Still there were times when we could remind ourselves of our work by carrying a poor tired fellow’s gun or knapsack when the ambulances were full. Often—far too often—the ambulance moving on the same as ever becomes some poor fellow’s death-bed, and at night his grave is

dug beside the road, a board roughly inscribed with his name and regiment, is put up at its head, and the poor fellow is left to his rest in the heart of rebeldom, and all we do is to take a full memorandum to send, as soon as we reach Savannah, to his friends at home, telling them when and where he was buried and all those little particulars that we know are so precious to friends as the last memento of a loved one.

Moving on in this way from day to day finding a rich, fertile country before us and leaving what the boys called a "black streak" thirty to fifty miles in width, behind us, we arrived before Savannah on the 11th of December. On the 13th Fort McAllister was taken (where one of us had the pleasure of administering a little of the rebel commandant's wine to one of his wounded men neglected by his own surgeon) and communication was open. Then for the next week we haunted the landing places at King's Bridge and the "Rice Mills," looking for supplies from the Commission. None came just then and we could not well expect them while as yet the Army was not half supplied with rations.

While waiting here, one evening we were out for a little walk and were returning through the woods near General Blair's Head-Quarters, when all at once among the thick trees on our right arose a Hymn of praise to God. Guided by the sound and the dim light of their fire reflected on the trees, we made our way to the spot and found, gathered in a half circle round a fire so shielded as to be almost invisible from the road, some twenty Christian soldiers engaged in the worship of God.

We entered the circle and joined in the hymn,

"Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follower of the Lamb."

After the hymn was over, noticing that we were observed with some curiosity, I rose and told them who we were; that we were agents of the Christian Commission, sent along with the expedition, and were waiting for supplies; that we were the representatives of the Christian people of the North, and of their interest in the soldier; that that interest was increasing every day, as shown by the support they gave us; and I only wished that their friends at home could look in upon them now, and see how, in the midst of all the discouragement of campaign life, their hearts were still warm to-

wards God. With a few words of encouragement to an open and manly Christian life, I had finished, when one of the soldiers rose from his log seat and welcomed us in a speech which I wish very much I could report to you in full, but still some parts of it I can give almost verbatim.

"We are glad," he says, "to see the members of the Christian Commission among us. This is the Christian Association of the 44th Illinois. We number about forty members, and we have banded together for the purpose of supporting each other in our Christian course. We have held these meetings all along the march, and now we have them every evening. We feel that they do us good. Some of us have to be on guard every night, but every man is always here when he can be. We are glad the Christian Commission is along. We know the Commission. We found it at Marietta and Atlanta, and its books and papers. I don't know what we should have done without them. Tell our friends in the North that we are glad they do not forget us; that we have a good many struggles, but we still try to press on. Tell them to pray for us, and that we always pray for them." With a hearty shake of the hand, after the meeting was closed we left them, feeling better and stronger ourselves, and with firmer hopes for our country, so long as it has such prayers and such defenders.

On the 21st of December we entered Savannah. The provost marshal told me to select any rooms I pleased in the city, and they would assign them. I took a fine store on Bay street, near the Exchange and post office, about a hundred feet by forty, good ware room in cellar, and two rooms over head, very suitable for reading room and library, or office—just such quarters, and in just the location we wanted, and they were promptly assigned to us.

Hearing that supplies were at Hilton Head, but detained on account of transportation, Arthur Lawrence soon secured that by an interview with General Foster, and very soon supplies began to arrive. I fitted up our room with writing desks for fifty men at a time, and from two to three hundred letters were written daily, and those which had no stamp (about two-thirds of the whole) we stamped at night (when stamps could be had) and forwarded. For curiosity sake I counted a hundred letters taken at random one night, and found them directed, forty-two to "Mr.," thirty-five to "Mrs.," and twenty-three to "Miss." From this majority of one-sixth of the

whole for the feminine side of the house, and various other relations, in which the figures might be made to hold, those inclined to philosophize can draw their own inferences.

It was surprising to see the eagerness and thankfulness with which our supplies were received. Men, who had been without any kind of reading for almost two months, were hungry for some solid and substantial food for thought, and those who knew their families had been in an agony of suspense in regard to their safety all through the campaign, were delighted to find pen, ink, paper, writing-desk and stamps in waiting for them, free; and the stationery brought to them in camp, sometimes ten and fifteen miles from Savannah, by the chaplain. I believe there is no noble or more faithful body of men on the face of the earth than the chaplains in Sherman's army, that have held their position up to the present time. By means of the chaplain's meeting every week, we were in constant communication with them, and kept up meetings every evening that were usually crowded with soldiers eager to be instructed in the Word. Some eight or ten chaplains labored with us, distributing our stores day after day, not confining themselves to their own regiments, but acting in every respect as delegates of the Christian Commission. All the while the chaplains were distributing our stores in the surrounding camps, our rooms in Savannah were thronged from morning till night. We opened one morning at nine o'clock with a stock of four thousand books and papers, and at two o'clock, P. M. the whole were gone, and almost every one taken from the counter—a book or paper to each man who presented himself. You can judge of the continual crowd and procession of men in and out in order to have distributed that amount of stores in those five hours. It would be impossible to give you any idea of the thankfulness with which these stores of reading, thread, needles, buttons, pens, ink, paper, &c., were received by the men. Some regiments would send in a man to thank us. The "Irish Legion" gave three cheers for the Christian Commission. "There is something in Christianity after all," said a man as he left our counter one day, and such a conviction was written pretty legibly on the faces of many as they went away, who had come in carelessly "just to see what we had to sell." So the work has gone on till now the middle of January. Rev. Mr. Spencer, of the New York branch, is coming down from Hilton

Head, and I leave to-morrow for the North. Two corps of Sherman's army have already moved into the heart of South Carolina. The other two corps will soon follow, and if the army swings loose again from its base, there will be the same need of meeting them at their new base as there was at Savannah. If this brief report of our work at Savannah, shall be in the slightest degree instrumental in encouraging the Commission to be prompt and generous in their next supply for this noble army, then so long deprived of our ministrations and so eager to receive them always, then will we be as thankful to God for the success of our report, as for the success of the mission which it sketches.

I have the honor to be sir, in the Commission, very respectfully  
your obedient servant,

WILLIAM A. LAWRENCE.

*Agent U. S. Christian Commission.*

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#### **Report of the Department of North Carolina.**

The combined advance of General Sherman and General Schofield into North Carolina, about the 1st of April 1865, had filled that State with our soldiers, and the hospitals at the principal military posts with sick and wounded.

The New York Branch of the Commission, working from Newbern as a base, had early established stations also at Wilmington, Goldsboro' and Raleigh. Mrs. Bickerdyke, special nurse in Sherman's army, had been supplied at the Central Office with certain stores, and accompanied by Messrs. Decker, Martin and Crane of the Commission, had established herself at Beaufort as general matron of the hospital, which contained some fifteen hundred patients in the most deplorable condition. Crane soon left from ill health, Martin remained with Mrs. Bickerdyke, and Decker—who as a business man and lately an officer in the army, was the right man in the right place,—went North at once for supplies. I met him at Washington, and the next day two hundred and twelve boxes and barrels left our Washington warehouse for North Carolina. About one half of these were left at Newbern, and the remainder sent on to Beaufort. May 1st, I was sent from the Central Office

into North Carolina, to note what was needed and especially to consult with Rev. Mr. Rodman, Agent of New York Branch, in regard to what might be done for the large number of troops in the central and western part of the State. I was received very cordially by Mr. Rodman, and went on at once to Beaufort, where I found Mrs. Bickerdyke in high spirits over the supplies from Washington; saw the "boys" at dinner, with the pickles, vegetables and delicacies disappearing with marvellous celerity; found Mr. Martin doing an excellent work among the patients, spiritually and *cheerily*, and left that afternoon for Goldsboro'. Here we had a station in charge of Mr. Selleck, with two delegates and Chaplain Allington an old acquaintance of ours at Nashville and Chattanooga. There were a few troops still here, with a camp and hospital at some distance from the station in which the delegates were at work. Going directly thence to Wilmington, I was glad to find there in charge with two men, our old Knoxville delegate, Rev. Mr. Thomas, and also Messrs. Brundette and Hoblitt of the Sanitary Commission, Chaplain Kent, and Misses Shelton and Cunningham of the Hospital Diet Kitchen, but was very, very sad to learn that Mrs. George, the true soldier's friend and mother, from Indiana, who used to work so hard on the Atlanta campaign, had just died at her post, of that terrible Wilmington fever.

Here were from two to three hundred sick, and some two thousand very destitute and sickly refugees in camp. The hospital at Smithville had one of our diet kitchens, and was well supplied by the Sanitary Commission. From Wilmington I returned to Goldsboro', and thence to Raleigh. Here I found Mr. Downer a very efficient man in charge, with three delegates, but with absolutely *no* supplies except a few cotton socks. I saw General Schofield's Chief Quartermaster Colonel Boyd, who had his introduction to the Christian Commission in Libby Prison. He gave me a very cordial promise of every proper facility on all the railroads in the State.

I had now been over the whole field of our operations in North Carolina up to the date of May 15th, and the following was

#### THE SITUATION.

East of Raleigh, plenty of *men*, but not enough *supplies* even at Newbern the base; still less at Goldsboro'; still less at Wil-

mington, and at Raleigh *none at all*, not so much as a newspaper or testament. But one hundred miles still further from Newbern, and west of Raleigh, lay five thousand troops at Greensboro'; fifty miles beyond and south of them, lay five thousand more at Salisbury; and fifty miles still further south, five thousand more at Charlotte. The three divisions, in short, of the Twenty-third corps—the main body of troops in the State, and unreached by either Christian or Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Rodman's line of supplies had dwindled, as we have seen, from a cart-path down to a squirrel track, and actually "gone up" at Raleigh. There was no use, therefore, in trying to push that line any further westward and so it was agreed, as I met Mr. Rodman at the station, that if anything could be done for the Twenty-third Corps, it should come from the Central Office.

I returned to Philadelphia, (stopping just long enough in Newbern to send some stores to Wilmington and Raleigh, from those left by Mr. Baugs,) and immediately on my arrival E. Snell, Esq., was sent to open, if possible, a shorter route to Greensboro and beyond, by way of City Point, South Side Railroad and Danville. Mr. Snell succeeded in getting through from Richmond to Greensboro and thence to Raleigh, where he met Mr. Woodruff and stores which had been sent meanwhile by way of Newbern, and returning to Greensboro, established a station about the first week in June, which he reported as very successful, but his health failing (a fact which is easily accounted for in a man who has been ridden once on the Richmond and Danville railroad,) he returned North without reaching the ten thousand troops farther south at Salisbury and Charlotte, or establishing the "Through Freight" line by way of City Point. But meanwhile Rev. T. R. Noble, well known in the Commission, had offered to try the experiment, and left Washington with a large invoice of stores, adding others at City Point. I soon received from him the following telegram:—"Greensboro, June 12. Agents and anti-scorbutics are needed at Charlotte and Salisbury. My stores must be distributed here. Shall return soon."

This made *two* things certain:—First, that there must be great need all along the line, as all this large invoice must be distributed at Greensboro already repeatedly supplied. How much greater then the need at Salisbury and Charlotte. Second, that Mr. Noble could not remain long enough, and had not help enough to establish

stations at these two important posts. Receiving this telegram the 13th of June, I succeeded in enlisting four tried men—Messrs. Goodwin, Love, Austin and Galcott—for the work in North Carolina, selected a good invoice of stores for a new field, and taking Mr. Decker,—my right-hand man in Washington—left for City Point. In three days we reached Greensboro, with Mr. Goodwin sick. Unshipped our stores, a process we had already repeated, several times on the way (Southern railroads have as many different gauges as there are “State Rights”) divided them properly for two new stations, and next day we had left Austin with stores at Salisbury, and arrived with Deacon Love and stores at Charlotte, and *the line was up*. The chain of communication between Christain hearts at home and the farthest soldier in North Carolina was now complete at last, and I returned to Washington thankful. I shall let the work now speak for itself, in the following extracts from the letters of the laborers:—

## GREENSBORO.

“Supplies arrived late to-day” (July 3d) “Shall deliver them to-morrow at Salisbury and Charlotte. Found Mr. Goodwin low; immediately removed him to Juuiata house, and now he is nearly recovered.” (He soon after returned home.) “Surgeons and all recipients of Christian Commission bounty express much satisfaction and gratitude.”

“*Morning, July 4th.*

“Stores distributed in season for Independence day, and never more needed or gratefully received here. It is sunrise and the windows are breaking by artillery-fire in the inclosure. I retreat hastily.”

“DANA WALCOTT.”

I must state, before the next extract, that Mr. Decker having returned home, I was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. N. C. Brackett, formerly agent in the Shenandoah as agent for the Twenty-third Corps, and he arrived on the ground July 11th.

“*July 15th.*

“I sent brother Bennett to Greensboro with several boxes of stores. He was kindly received by surgeons, a tent and other conveniences were provided for him. The prescribing physician of the



hospital, affirmed that he believed more lives had been saved during the war by the Christian Commission than by the Medical Profession."

"N. C. BRACKETT."

SALISBURY. (OF CURSED MEMORY TO SO MANY PRISONERS.)

"ROOMS U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, MURPHY'S BLOCK, }  
"SALISBURY, N. C., July 1, 1865. }

"W. A. LAWRENCE, &C.

"SIR:—I have the pleasure to report the work at this place to be of the most pleasing character. The Commission has received marked attention from the officers at this post, not because of favors bestowed or expected, but apparently because of its sacred appeal to their attention, and the fitness of its labors to the necessities of the army. Failing to find the medical director, I reported to Surgeon Beach in charge of the division hospital, and learning that his was the only hospital in the place, and that its destitution was great, I delivered nearly all the hospital stores to him, for which he gave me his receipt and sent the following acknowledgement:—

"FIELD HOSPITAL, 2ND DIVISION, 28TH ARMY CORPS,  
*Salisbury, June 22, 1865.*

"MR. AUSTIN:—Allow me to assure you, as agent of your truly *Christian Commission*, that I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the receipt of the supplies you sent me this morning. Since entering the army, nearly four years ago, it has been my design that one-tenth of the income in my commission should be appropriated to charitable purposes connected with the army. If I have ever regretted that this rule was adopted, I cease to regret it at such a time as this, when just the right articles reach the afflicted at just such an opportune moment as this.

"[Signed]

W. MORROW BEACH,  
*Surgeon in Charge.*

"I telegraphed for more supplies, and spent the interim in distributing stationery, reading matter, &c., visiting the hospital daily with such grateful gifts as I had for the sick, and pointing them to Christ. A daily prayer meeting was established in a vacant ward, but was afterwards exchanged for brief religious exercises in the different wards for the benefit of those who were unable to leave

their beds. These exercises were highly appreciated by the poor sick boys. There was a 'Confederate ward' in the hospital, where were the sick and wounded who had been left at the taking of the place by our forces. These poor sufferers were not forgotten by the Commission, and their gratitude was unbounded. They prized our publications highly; and it was truly pleasant to see the 'Christian Banner' with its stars and stripes lying upon the face of one who had so recently been fighting against it. It is but due that I should call the attention of the Commission to Mrs. Sarah Johnson, who has, much to her own personal risk and sacrifice, been constant in her attention to our soldiers as well as the Confederates, ever since the hospital for United States troops was established here. The saddest work which I have to record is in regard to the prison cemetery, to which you especially directed my attention. The records of the dead have been sent to the Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C. The cemetery is said to contain five thousand—nearly all buried without coffins and in trenches, so closely that no space intervened, and oftentimes placed one upon another, when the prisoners detailed to dig the graves had failed to extend the trenches equal to the mortality. Only thirteen head-boards are to be found, which are subjoined. The cemetery of two acres contains fifteen trenches, fifteen rods in length each. The following are the only inscriptions to be found, and some of them on rough boards poorly inscribed:—

"'E. W. Bishop, Lieutenant 18th Connecticut Volunteers, died March 17, 1865.'

"'Corporal G. W. Manville, Company E, 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, United States Army.'

"'Charles S. Hamstead, Company D, 8th Pennsylvania Cavalry, died February 1st, 1865.'

"'Moses Taylor, Died February 2, 1864.'

"'George Pearson, Company D, 4th Vermont Regiment, Died April 5, 1864, aged 18 years.'

"'44.'

"'26.'

"'C. C. Millet, Company H, 39th Massachusetts, died November 15, 1864.' (Masonic mark.)

"'J. C. Menenus, 7th Michigan, Company H, died November 8, 1864.' (Masonic mark.)

“‘John Blackburn, of Tennessee, died December 6, 1864.’

“‘J. F. Hunter, Company H, 90th Regiment, Pennsylvania.’

“‘George M. Lycinger, Company H, 107th Pennsylvania, died December 18, 1864.’ (Masonic mark.)

“‘John Lewis, aged 34 years.’

“‘T. Kimble.’

“‘Charles G. Palmer, Company G, 1st District Columbia Cavalry, died January 25, 1865.’ (Masonic mark.)

“‘And in the garden of Mrs. Sarah Johnson, ‘Hugh Berry, 5th Michigan Cavalry.’

Mr. Austin distributed here about one hundred packages of hospital stores, including twelve barrels of pickles.

#### CHARLOTTE.

What extracts I have given from the letters of Mr. Austin, at Salisbury, will apply almost word for word, to both Charlotte and Greensboro', as given in the letters of Dea. Love, at Charlotte, and others at Greensboro. Taking then for brevity's sake, the letters from Salisbury as a specimen, except that Salisbury was the smallest station, I need only add the following from Charlotte:

“CHARLOTTE, June 23d.

“BROTHER LAWRENCE:

“*Dear Sir*—Everything has worked well thus far. General Thomas got me the store, on the corner, and then called to see me. I find the men greatly in want. I had a great run yesterday; gave out Testaments, hymn-books and other books, paper, envelopes, thread, needles, pins, &c., almost without number. The men seem to be almost starved for Testaments and reading matter of all kinds. This station has done immense good among these needy men, especially the sick. It has already paid a thousand-fold.”

I need only add the following testimony from the surgeon and chaplain of the hospital at Charlotte, which, after alluding in very complimentary terms to Deacon Love, goes on to say:—

“The Medical Director of this Division, and the chaplain of this Hospital, feel truly grateful to the Christian Commission for their timely and liberal aid by the hands of their efficient agent. It is difficult to see how we could have got along with our hundreds of sick without the delicacies so generously sent us. It was at a time when

we seemed to be remote from any efficient agency of the Sanitary Commission, and when we could get little else than the ordinary army ration, which it is well-known is wholly unsuited to the delicate taste of the sick. When the pleasantly flavored dishes of chicken, turkey, mutton and beef, were daily handed round, with canned-fruits of various kinds, with jellies, jams, butter-crackers, pickles, oranges and lemons and other good things, these brave, but suffering men, breathed a prayer to Heaven for blessings on the noble men and women of the Christian Commission. Surely benevolence is twice blessed, blessing him that gives, and him that receives.

"Nor were these prostrate heroes grateful only for these ministrations to their physical comforts; the hearts swelled with still greater warmth for the precious Bread of Life to feed their souls.

"The religious book, paper and tract were to these men, far from home and friends, during their long and weary hours of suffering, like water in a dry and thirsty land. And there can be no doubt that in multitudes of instances the seed of the Word, thus charitably sown, was made effectual unto salvation.

"Again we thank the Christian Commission and their faithful and active agent, for their kind and opportune aid to our sick and destitute soldiers. Verily, they have their reward in heaven!

“(Signed)

“J. H. SPURRIEN,

*Division Medical Director.*

“WM. P. KOUTZ,

*Chaplain 128th Ind., and Hospital Chaplain.”*

I ought also, to mention, before closing this report, that the posts and hospitals at Burksville and Danville were supplied from time to time with stores for the sick, as our supplies passed through those stations. In general we can say that the troops were thoroughly and liberally supplied with reading matter and stationery and the hospital supplies; a good judgment may be formed from the fact that there were five hundred and fifteen (515) boxes and barrels sent into the Department under my instructions, of which the following was one shipment (125 packages) and a fair sample generally:—39 barrels pickles, 8 boxes farina, 8 boxes Jamaica ginger, 3 boxes blackberry-root syrup, 4 boxes raspberry vinegar, 6 boxes milk, 1 box coffee, 6 boxes tomatoes, 4 boxes corn-starch, 1 box ink, box vanilla extract, pens, holders, pencils, shirts,

drawers, &c., 1 barrel potatoes, 6 barrels crackers, 1 keg tamarinds, 2 boxes jelly, 3 boxes cranberry sauce, 6 boxes lemons, 5 boxes oranges, 1 box magazines, 2 boxes stationery, 5 boxes reading.

The general usefulness of the work done is shown in the enthusiasm manifested by those engaged in it, becoming endeared to the soldiers, to each other, and to the work itself, in a way that was really touching. Mr. Brackett tells the whole story of the close in a few words, dated Greensboro, August 1st, 1865:—

“Our stores are exhausted to-day, the Twenty-third corps, as an organization, ceases to exist and we start for the North.”

Thank God for the good record they left behind them, and which I trust was looked down upon with joy from above them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LAWRENCE,

*General Field Agent U. S. Chris. Commission.*

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### **Sherman's Army at Washington.**

On Wednesday, May 24th, 1865, General Sherman's Army passed in review through Washington and went into camp two or three miles north of the city. In their rapid march from Savannah we had been able to do but little for them, except to aid in caring for the sick that fell back into the hospital. But the men in the regiments had seen little of the Commission since our distribution at Savannah. They were now within reach and were greatly in need of such work and relief as we could give. But it must come quickly; this was the problem. Given four corps, seventeenth, fifteenth, fourteenth and twentieth, sixty thousand veterans, travel-worn, tattered and long neglected because long inaccessible in the wilds of Georgia and the Carolinas, to do the most possible for them, temporally and spiritually, *in ten days*.

With willing hearts and ready hands at command, the solution was soon reached. A station was organized in each corps and manned with six workers—one in charge of the religious work proper—one in charge of hospital supplies, and four for the general work which always combines the two.

The organization was effected and stations put up by Friday, and on Saturday with sixteen Government wagon loads of supplies, twenty-four men were at work—and at work they were. I never before saw men labor with such enthusiasm. Every night requisitions from each corps were brought into Washington, and made up, and taken out by the wagons next morning. But every day a special messenger would come in from each corps about as regular as sunrise, hot and excited and "*bent*" on having more supplies for "our corps." "More paper, more pens, more pickles, more blackberry cordial, more Testaments, more Hymn Books,—why the boys are actually starving for something to read and something to eat along with their hard-tack." "Is *that* all you can give us to-day? Why, that won't last two hours!" "Can't help it; it's your share, and there is plenty more on the way from Philadelphia—will be here to-morrow." "Those teams yesterday missed their way and didn't get to us till after three o'clock, and it's all gone now but a few shirts and some of those 'little books,' give us everything you can:" and the messenger would go back to his work again, and Mr. Decker would go on with his "hurrying up." We found a great advantage in the fact that our delegates had pitched their tents *and made their home* right in the midst of the soldiers. The "Boys" adopted them at once into that great family as soon as they saw them unpacking. "Going into camp with us, are you? That's bully; hope you won't find us here long though. Hear anything said about our being mustered out? Say, if you want any help 'bout putting up that tent (looking at some of our 'Reverends' in their shirt-sleeves, doing their best at 'lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes' of their new Zion) I'll get some of the boys over here in our company—more used to that thing than you are:—got anything good to eat in them boxes? got any writing paper?" and in two or three days the tents of the Christian Commission were as well known and as much a part of the camp as "Division Head-Quarters," and the delegates talking as naturally of "our corps" as if they had marched through from Atlanta. It was this ready sympathy on both sides perhaps that made the efforts of our delegates so *immediately* successful in promoting a religious interest among the soldiers. Each station had a large chapel tent capable of holding, in and around, its sides rolled up, as many soldiers as could well listen to one voice, and every evening these were thronged and the interest intense in

every corps, but especially in the fourteenth, General Thomas' old corps, and one in which the Commission had been able to do the most in the West. In this corps the conversions were numbered by scores, how many, of course, it is impossible to say, but it is sufficient cause of rejoicing that many were manifest. It is impossible to put on paper any adequate description of the work done in these few days, but perhaps the best way of doing something towards this will be to give a few extracts from the reports of each of the corps.

#### SEVENTEENTH CORPS—DR. MORRISON'S REPORT.

On May 25th, I was assigned to labor in the Seventeenth corps.

May 27th.—Went out to camp, opened stores, commenced distribution of stationery and reading matter. Had good prayer-meeting in evening; addressed the soldiers and prayed with them.

May 29th.—Preached at 10 A. M. General Leggett and large audience present. Earnest and respectful attention. At 4 P. M., preached to the Twenty-fifth Wisconsin. Addressed the meeting in tent at 7 P. M.

May 30th.—Chapel tent erected. Preached in evening to a large, earnest audience. Deep feeling among the soldiers.

May 31st.—Took part in the meetings at 10 A. M., and at 7 P. M. Interest increasing.

June 1st.—Short addresses in tent at 10 A. M. Preached at 3 P. M., in Thirty-first Illinois; large solemn meeting. Preached at 5 P. M., in 30th Illinois. In both places the regiment was brought out in full. Services had reference to the death of our lamented President. Good meeting at 4 P. M., in tent.

June 2d.—At 7 P. M., more than ordinary interest felt. Addressed in words of *caution, warning* and *encouragement*.

June 3d.—Preached in evening. Cheering meeting. Less noise, but deep solemn feeling.

June 4th.—Expounded scripture, and prayer. Our young brother Walcott spoke beautifully and tenderly. I addressed the evening meeting; still earnest, tender feeling.

June 5th.—Good meeting both at 10 A. M., and 7 P. M., though many gone.

June 7th.—Troops gone,—tents and stores removed to the city.

[After a few words of personal acknowledgments, the doctor goes on to say:]

The other brethren assigned to the Seventeenth corps will make their individual reports. Some of them were with us but a few days. Those who remained to the last labored most pleasantly and efficiently. We became a band of brothers in our Master's work, and are glad to remember the happy days spent under your kind supervision.

I fondly hope, that through the Spirit and blessing of God accompanying the means employed, great and lasting good may result to the souls of many of our brave soldiers; and that eternity may unfold a bright revenue of glory, in the salvation of many precious souls through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN W. MORRISON.

Rev. Mr. Gardner has furnished many interesting statements. My space for this corps will only allow a few extracts:

STATION OF THE CHRISTIAN COM., 17TH ARMY CORPS, }  
NEAR WASHINGTON, }

REV. MR. LAWRENCE, *Field Agent, &c.*:

I have labored with this corps for two weeks. The facilities for work have been good, and it is evident that these war-worn veterans have appreciated the work done for them, and been spiritually blessed. I have given little time to the distribution of sanitary stores—that part of the work being assigned more especially to other hands. I have tried to do these men good, spiritually. I have attended many prayer-meetings, and preached nearly every day—Sundays twice. These meetings have been intensely interesting. The attendance has been good, and very many Christian soldiers have been quickened and encouraged in their religious life, and some have been hopefully converted to God. We hope also seed has been sown that will spring up in the future and bear fruit to the glory of God. One evening I had preached from the words, “Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” After the sermon very many testified to the saving power of His blood; and before the meeting closed something like thirty rose to request special prayer for their souls. One has expressed hope and written me the following:—

“I want to be a soldier of Jesus Christ. I will try to serve the Lord—and I hope you will pray for me that I may hold out to the end.” This man subsequently told me how he went out into the



grove by the moon light to pray—how, after he knelt, two soldiers came along—how he was tempted to desist from prayer—how he was strengthened to go on with his petitions—and how he had found great peace and joy in believing in Christ. He said to me as he was about to leave with his division:—"God bless you, my brother, for coming to work for the soldiers. You have been the means of saving my poor soul."

I might give interesting extracts to almost any extent from letters received from Christian soldiers. Some speak of praying wives, some of family altars; many of praying mothers, *all* of the love of Christ. Many of the soldiers expressed themselves grateful for the work of the Christian Commission. One says:—

"God bless the Christian Commission, and the delegates, who leave their homes to come into this camp to do the soldiers good, spiritually. I have been a soldier of Christ for nearly seventeen years, and I can truthfully say, these meetings, these happy associations have done me good; and I believe not me only, but scores of others. They are to me like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. These appear to me times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord.

"If it please God that I get home soon to my wife and children, we will talk thankfully of the happy hours we spent with the dear ministers of Jesus Christ who came out to labor for the spiritual welfare of the Seventeenth Army Corps."

Such expressions as these were and are very encouraging. The work has been very sweet. Jesus has been with us. He is going home with these soldiers, and he will be "favorable to his land" for their sake.

In my ministerial life, I have seen no more decisive evidence of the power of truth and the reality of the Christian's hope, than since I have been here. May the Lord water and bless the seed—sown in feebleness and faith.

Our Christian brotherhood at the station has been delightful—a foretaste of heaven. Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist—we have been all one in Christ Jesus.

This Commission will soon close up its work,—its influence will never die. It is the marvel of the age. Such a realization of the great ideal of Christian charity as the world never before has seen. It is sublime evidence that God's people are all essentially one in

Christ Jesus; and that Christian love is the strongest power in the hearts of true believers.

"Glory be to God on high." "He maketh wars to cease under the whole heaven."

Very truly your brother,

GEORGE W. GARDNER.

TWENTIETH CORPS—FROM REPORT OF REV. S. H. LEE.

*Washington, June 13th, 1865.*

BROTHER LAWRENCE:—The following brief report of my work is submitted according to your request. Being placed in charge of the religious work in the corps, I shall state facts of a general nature and such as concern myself particularly.

Religious services were held every Sabbath in different parts of the corps by the delegates, and on other days, when strength was sufficient. But our principal religious meetings were held in the chapel. It was no sooner erected than it was filled. The first evening (there being yet no seats) the ground was covered with attentive hearers. The soldiers of Sherman's Army having been entirely deprived of all privileges, religious, intellectual and social, were hungry for meetings. One said he had not been to such a service for a year, and it seemed like getting out of prison, to get into a place of prayer. Preaching of the plainest, most direct kind, was listened to with solemn interest. I never saw an audience more attentive and appreciative. Throughout our stay this continued to be the character of our meetings,—full, solemn, earnest. After the sermon, the soldiers were very free in conducting the social meeting. Those prayer-meetings were models. I wish it were possible to open one of them to the view of every church in stiff New England. It would be a lesson which many a good deacon would never forget, and it might inspire many a young man properly to improve and appreciate his advantages. The numbers did not diminish till the regiments began to move for home.

Rev. James Land says:—"I entered upon my work as a delegate of the Christian Commission, on the 24th of May. With the exception of the first day (when I visited the Michigan Brigade of Sheridan's Cavalry) my time has been spent with the Twentieth Army Corps. My time was given chiefly to the Second Division, in distributing reading-matter, paper, thread, pencils, &c. As I dealt

out supplies, I took occasion to converse with the men on the interests of the soul. A 5th Connecticut soldier gave a very interesting account of his experience. He said that after a long struggle, one night as they stopped on a march through South Carolina, he fell down by the trunk of a pine tree and gave himself up to God. I was distributing papers among the men of the one hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania. One man said: "Boys, there are some Christians left yet." Another said: "God bless the Christian Commission." And another, "I owe my life to the Christian Commission."

FIFTEENTH CORPS.—FROM REPORT OF REV. A. K. MOULTON.

Sunday, May 28th.—This is a strange Sabbath to me. I have spent many in the western wilds, but none before in a military camp. The jargon is intense. Bugles and drums, and mules and men, all contribute to disturb the hallowed stillness which should prevail. Weather beautiful.

The soldiers crowd around our tent, and we, nothing loath, deliver to them religious papers and Testaments without count. Writing paper, pens, ink and envelopes too are called for constantly. At about eight o'clock we undertook to carry out the programme on which we had agreed last evening in mutual consultation, as follows:—Chaplain Porter and brother Ayer, went to the meeting held by the Chaplain of the First Division. Brothers Gallagher and Purrinton went to the Second Division. Brother Libby and myself went to the Fourth Division, (there being no Third,) leaving brother Sanford to take care of the station—Mr. Jones and Mrs. Bickerdyke having gone to town. Every one of the brethren took one hundred papers and twenty-five Testaments, and each two were to extemporise meetings, and preach if possible. Brother Libby and myself soon exhausted our stock, and sent back two soldiers for three hundred newspapers and fifty more Testaments, while we got up a meeting. I spoke to the soldiers from the words of Paul:—"Fight the good fight of faith." And brother Libby followed with remarks. The soldiers joined with us in singing, and seemed devout and attentive, and some were deeply affected. After meeting in the afternoon the brethren went through the camp. Like the ancient repairers of Jerusalem, the brethren of this station "have a mind to work," and besides their industrious dispositions, they are

men of piety and intelligence, as it seems to me, and amply qualified for the position they occupy.

May 29th.—We are all very busy, and a soldier from Michigan, a Methodist licensed minister, who has formerly been employed as a Christian Commission delegate, has taken hold to labor with us. By eleven o'clock, I had distributed one hundred and fifty Testaments and papers, and all kinds of stationery in proportional quantity. The brethren have all been equally diligent giving out among other things three barrels of tomato and onion pickles which have been clutched and devoured by the soldiers with the voracity of wolves. A little over half a pint to a man has been the average in distribution.

Apple butter, dried apples, and dried fruit and berries of various kinds, and various remedies for camp diseases (with which the soldiers are terribly afflicted), some hundreds of shirts and drawers, &c. have been distributed; and as I looked on and saw the half-famished soldiers, in tattered uniforms, entreat the brethren for aid, my emotions almost overpowered me.

Mr. Sanford started for Washington, to hasten our supplies, but before his return, Mr. Lawrence came to our tent and seemed to approve our course heartily, [which, indeed, I did, except that I was afraid that their "course" would soon be run, unless they had more rest. Brother Moulton had to have a surgeon called in, and came very near dying. W. A. L.]

May 30th.—Mr. Porter and Mr. Gallagher, have been absent laboring in the camp, but the day has been mainly spent by the balance of our company at our tent, receiving our supplies, opening and arranging, and delivering them. Among other things we have delivered one large barrel of pickled cucumbers, and one keg of the same, almost literally one at a time; one keg of apple butter, one barrel dried apples, (for the sick exclusively;) other dried fruits in the same way, condensed milk, &c., with Testaments, and other reading matter, in the shape of tracts and pamphlets and papers. We find an unabated demand for our camp disease remedies. We have social meetings for prayer and conference every evening.

May 31st.—Our Corps is rapidly moving away. It is ordered to Louisville.

We witnessed to-day the marching of two brigades. The exhibitions of wild delight of the soldiers, as they started on their way, I

cannot describe. They leaped into the air with their guns, their heavy knapsacks, haversacks, blankets, and camp kettles—half enough to load a mule—they shouted at the top of their voices. Many were too feeble to indulge in all these manifestations of joy, but they were greatly relieved.

To-day in our rambles in the 4th division, brother Libby and myself found four men engaged at a game of cards—not at all an unusual occurrence—and after considerable haggling we bargained for the cards to be exchanged for religious reading. Our bargain attracted considerable attention, and by the time we got the cards we had a pretty good congregation, with whom we sang and prayed and preached for forty minutes. Many wept freely.

June 1st.—As this is fast day, we had a prayer meeting appointed for 6½ A. M., and preaching at 10. The prayer meeting was very interesting. By 8½ o'clock we had distributed over four thousand papers, and other things in proportion. At 9 A. M., brother Libby and I started for the 14th Army Corps, General Morgan, commander of 2nd Division, in which we intended to locate, gave us a kind welcome and assured us of his aid if we needed. Chaplain Morris, of the 113th Ohio, and other brethren were holding fast day meeting near head-quarters of 2nd brigade. At the close there was a hearty and unanimous vote of the soldiers for us to pitch our tents on that spot. This had been already suggested by General Morgan.

The above diary of brother Moulton tells its own story better than any elaborate argument or history. The 15th corps was gone, and we “concentrated” that station on the 14th Corps, 2nd Division.

#### FOURTEENTH CORPS.—REPORT OF MR. CHASE.

“W. A. LAWRENCE, &C.:—The work of the Commission at our station was of a very interesting and gratifying character. The station was set up May 26th, and continued nineteen days. There were received and distributed during the time allowed us ninety-eight boxes and barrels of Christian Commission stores, including fifteen barrels of pickles, twenty-five hundred Testaments and about fifteen thousand religious papers. Nearly every day three meetings were held in the chapel tent, and occasionally meetings in the open air at different points. Our supplies were gladly received by the

men. They were much in need of clothing. The demand for this was always greater than we could satisfy, though we were generously supplied."

PART OF REV. M. C. STEBBINS' REPORT.

"At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the 27th of May, brother H. and myself, having been assigned to labor with the Fourteenth Army Corps, left the rooms of the Christian Commission, on Tenth street, in the city of Washington, to enter upon our work, in the field. Our conveyance was an army wagon drawn by four mules. Into this we climbed, and found a place among the boxes of 'Soldiers' Reading,' 'Hospital Stores,' &c., that were soon to be dealt out to the men who had just completed their great achievements in fighting, enduring and marching. Having been dragged and jolted for about three miles in a northeasterly direction, over a rough and muddy road, we brought up at our station, in an orchard, right under the guns of Fort Bunker Hill. Our pioneers were upon the ground and had already erected the chapel tent: [it is noticeable that our delegates always "erect" their tents. W. A. L.] They were still busily engaged in pushing forward preparation for the work. We were soon at work opening and distributing our stores, at the same time announcing the appointments for religious services on the morrow. Hundreds went away bearing some religious paper, tract or book; or with pens, paper and envelopes, to write home once more to their friends. About seventy-five were gathered at our first preaching service on Sabbath morning the 28th of May: the number was larger in the afternoon, and still larger in the evening. From day to day the audience grew, and the interest deepened. On the Sabbath there were three preaching services, the one in the evening followed by a season of free conference and prayer. During the week the usual order was a prayer-meeting at ten o'clock, also at one o'clock, and at half past seven o'clock in the evening preaching followed by a season of prayer and conference. We did not have to wait long for evidences of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit."

REPORT OF DEACON ROBERT LOVE.

"The main army had arrived, and the great review had passed. By your direction we pitched our tents in the Fourteenth Corps, in Sherman's Army, near Washington. Here in our chapel tent we

established daily prayer-meetings, and preaching every night. Here again God heard the prayers of his people, and Christ was manifestly present, by his Spirit in the conviction and conversion of sinners. The work was deep and pungent upon the hearts of these men, so much so that they would rise and request prayer for themselves with deep penitence for sin, and would very soon come into the sunlight of the Gospel, and at once testify for Christ, talk and pray in all our meetings, and soon become strong Christians. It would have rejoiced me above measure to have had Northern Christians and Northern churches look in upon our meeting, and see the crowds of men that attended, and heard Christians and young converts bless and praise the Lord for the chapel tent and for the good meeting and for the means of grace sent them with so many temporal comforts, so soon after their arrival in the Lord's country. The arrival of General Sherman's Army in Washington was not unlike the children of Israel going into Canaan, after wandering in the Wilderness forty years. In conclusion I would say that if there ever was an institution on earth, that had its origin in heaven, it is the United States Christian Commission."

Very truly,

ROBERT LOVE,

*Delegate of United States Christian Commission.*

The following is a summary of the principal articles of the *material* part of our work, distributed in Sherman's Army in those four days:

938 Bushels Potatoes,	972 Papers of Pins,
94 Barrels Pickles,	132,990 Papers,
4,368 Cans Condensed Milk,	15,444 Knapsack Books,
1,187 Bottles Blackberry Cor.,	19,529 Copies Scripture,
2½ Tons Dried Fruit,	8,240 Hymn Books,
57 Boxes Shirts,	9,840 Pens,
24 " Drawers,	4,872 Pen Holders,
3,100 House-wives,	648 Pencils,
2,737 Combs,	288 Bottles Ink,
10,000 Needles,	73,440 Sheets Paper,
91 Pounds Thread,	78,500 Envelopes,

In conclusion there are many things that might be said about the work, but the best has been said, in simply stating what the work was.

I have to thank Chaplains Critchfield, McFarland and Porter, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Bickerdyke, Mrs. Buell of Washington, and Miss Borden of Fall River, the Chaplains generally and the agents and delegates of the Commission, for their helping hands. May God bless them, and the brave men still living that we labored for.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. LAWRENCE,

*General Field Agent, Sherman's Army.*

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#### **Report of Christian Commission work in Texas.**

BY JOHN A. COLE, ESQ., GENERAL FIELD AGENT.

After the surrender of the rebels in Virginia, Major General Sheridan was assigned to the command of the Department of the Gulf, and a large force consisting of the Twenty-fifth corps, Fourth corps and portions of the Cavalry corps were ordered to Texas. The Twenty-fifth corps sailed from Fort Monroe about the first of June, and after a tedious passage landed on the Texan coast at Brazos de Santiago. One agent of the Christian Commission Mr. William Kirkby accompanied the troops, taking a large supply of reading and hospital stores with him and receiving also additional supplies from New Orleans as he passed that city. Going as they did, in the heat of summer from a northern latitude and, after a long sea voyage, being exposed to severe marches, they suffered severely from sickness, particularly among the colored regiments. The distribution of stores which the agent of the Commission was able to make at this time, although insufficient to relieve the great distress upon every hand, was a great assistance and blessing to many. In the month of August, Rev. S. J. Orange and wife came from St. Louis with a large invoice of reading and hospital stores, furnished by the Western Sanitary Commission. They established stations at Houston and Hampstead and distributed their stores



among the Cavalry. In September a more thorough system for the Commission work was entered upon, and ten experienced agents and delegates were sent to establish stations at different points. In a few weeks these stations; every where welcomed by the soldiers, were in successful operation at New Orleans, Brazos, Brownsville, Indianola, and Austin, so situated that nearly every regiment in the Department was reached by their influence. One thousand boxes of hospital stores and reading have been distributed from them.

A short sketch of each station will perhaps give the best view of the nature and success of the work.

*Brazos.* This station, although established mainly as a "base" for other stations in the District, has an important field of its own. Every facility has been granted by General Clark, Commander of the Post. Six regiments and a large Post Hospital are supplied from this station. The hospital is visited regularly and a delegate officiates at all burials. A school is held in the rooms each day for the colored soldiers. Mr. William Kirkby has the charge of the Commission in this Corps, and has been assisted at the station by Rev. W. W. Meech, who in the two months ending December 31st had preached thirty-four sermons besides other addresses. The only regiment here that has a chaplain has been furnished with a tent for a chapel, and all have been supplied with school-books.

*Brownsville.*—Three hospital tents, pitched upon a vacant lot in the centre of the town, have been open every day for the distribution of stores, reading and writing materials. The tent has been arranged with seats for evening meetings. Papers, books, and hospital stores are sent from time to time from this station to the troops on the upper Rio Grande. This station has proved very useful.

*Brownsville Post Hospital.*—At this station Rev. Jeremiah Porter and wife and Miss Gary are laboring—Mrs. Porter having charge of the Light Diet kitchen, and Miss Gary teaching a school for colored soldiers. This hospital is constantly visited by these delegates, and the patients are assisted in every way which kind hearts can devise for their good. Mr. Porter holds meetings at the hospital, and also in the camps in the vicinity.

The following extracts from Mr. Porter's reports will show, in part, the nature of the work performed. Under date December 11th, he writes:—"Last evening in our hospital prayer-meeting, six colored men arose to request our prayers for them, forty having

previously stood up to denote their trust in Christ. There is much religious interest among both white and colored troops. Mrs. Porter is managing the Light Diet Kitchen with great satisfaction to surgeons and patients: many are greatly comforted by her means daily, and some attribute their convalescence to her care. Our stores:—fruits, berries, butter, cheese, soda-crackers, etc., were most timely. Our reading matter affords great pleasure. — Last Sabbath evening, a soldier from Illinois, who seemed near death, sent for me. Hastening to his cot I found him very low, but his mind was very clear and he seemed resting in Christ. After I had read and prayed with him he wished me to sing,

I'm but a traveler here;  
Heaven is my home, &c.

“As I am not a singer I went to our tent and asked Miss Gary to go with me and sing with the dying man. She did so. He wished several hymns sung. He selected: ‘Oh for a closer walk with God.’ He wished me to write to his parents, brothers and sisters and bid them meet him in heaven.”

*Separate Brigade Station.*—Rev. Hugh McLeod is laboring here, having a large marque tent for religious services. A few extracts from his reports will give the best idea of the good work which is going on there.

He writes on December 11th:—“I am with the so-called ‘Separate Brigade,’—all that is left of the 13th Army Corps. There are five regiments from as many States, numbering in the aggregate on the ground some two thousand enlisted men besides officers. This is my present parish. Neither of these regiments has had a chaplain since they came to this State. The men were needing most pressingly everything in our line. They were feeling aggrieved at Government keeping them so long in the service after the war was over; and forgotten by everybody. This depressed state had its bad influence, resulting in general recklessness, where temptations, as here, met our noble boys on every side. I was received most warmly by all. They could hardly realize that I was sent so far by ‘home friends’ to do them good. The food I brought, for body and mind, was valued as having come to them from home, and a hungry and homesick man alone can fully prize such things. Our brigade Thanksgiving service was held in the Commission chapel tent. The commander set a good example by

his presence to his officers and men, and our tent was filled. This service did much, by the divine favor, in bringing about the present deep thoughtfulness, so general throughout the brigade. We have services every night. At the meeting last night the tent was full, and the feeling deeper than at any previous meeting. Some ten profess to have met with a change in their feelings and purposes since our meetings began; others are asking what they shall do to be saved. Every one is willing to be talked with—many are seriously thinking."

On January 11th, he writes:—"With the exception of two nights, our meetings have continued during the month. We have three services on the Sabbath, and a meeting for inquiry and prayer, each forenoon at 9 o'clock. The first day of the year was observed by all the Christians in the brigade as a day of fasting and prayer. Sin has an unusually strong hold here, especially in the matter of intemperance; but there is a change going on in this particular. The more than two hundred books in our 'Loan Libraries' are out nearly all the time. There is but *one* English book in it as I write. No man is allowed to keep a book more than a week; so they circulate freely." On January 15th, he writes:—"The religious work seems to be taking a deeper and wider hold. The meetings last night and to-night were both of solemn interest." Two weeks later, Mr. McL. says:—"Christ and His salvation are the theme now on every hand. On Sabbath evening all except twelve in our crowded tent stood up either as Christians or earnestly desiring to become such. On Monday evening all but five stood up; on Tuesday evening all but three; and last night all but one. All the regiments in the brigade share in the blessing."

*Indianola.*—At this station, Mr. H. B. Town is laboring. In addition to sustaining a fine reading-room and library for the use of the soldiers here, Mr. Town has distributed stores to nearly every regiment in the Fourth corps, as they were embarking for home; giving the sick many articles of food and clothing, and by these without question, saving not a few veterans from a soldier's burial by the way. Meetings are held for colored troops in the church—interesting and well attended. Papers and stores have been sent from here to San Antonio, Victoria, and other inland towns. School-books have been distributed among the colored troops to great advantage.

In one month were distributed from this station :—45 barrels of pickles; 528 bottles of preserves, cordials, etc.; 111 shirts; 159 pair of drawers; 8,900 papers; 7,100 pages of tracts; 1,895 hymn-books; 2,350 soldier's books; 455 Testaments; 700 spellers, arithmetics, etc.

*Austin.*—Rev. S. J. Orange and wife are laboring here. Mr. Orange writes on December 19th :—We are very anxious to have the big tent, for the Spirit of the Lord is at work in the camp. We hold two services every day, and in the last ten days have had thirty conversions, and many others desire the prayers of the meeting. This afternoon I preached and two officers made the good confession,—the first of the officers. How glorious is our work, and what a blessed privilege that God permits us to be instruments in His hand for so noble a purpose.”

January 11th, he writes:—“Our work here is progressing most gloriously. Our tabernacle is pitched, and the Lord meets us there in our two meetings every day. Not a meeting without souls converted and backsliders reclaimed. We have in the last three weeks baptized forty, and organized a church which now numbers one hundred members.”

January 15th, he writes:—“The meetings still continue twice a day. Yesterday four souls were received into the Kingdom of God's dear Son—*one whose head was white as snow, the oldest soldier in the command.* We have now one hundred and fifteen members.”

At all of these stations the work is still in progress, and the indications of continued prosperity and usefulness were never greater than now. “To the Lord be all the glory.”

### Report from the National Committee on Ladies' Christian Comissions.

It was not until the third year of the war, that the idea of forming Ladies' Christian Comissions was carried out so as to assume a tangible form, or produce any practical results.

Much time was necessarily consumed in inaugurating a movement which was to embrace in its operation all the loyal territory of the country, and consequently the work was arrested almost in its infancy by the glorious advent of Peace. Much good, however, was done through the instrumentality of this minor agency even during its short life.

There were at the time of the organization of Ladies' Christian Comissions, very many societies formed among the loyal women of the land, intended to accomplish objects altogether in harmony with the work of the parent society, the results of which were seen and felt on many battle-fields from the commencement of the rebellion. The majority of these subsequently assumed the name of Ladies' Christian Comissions, and continued their labors as such. It has not been possible, to secure a *complete* record of each one of these organizations, and from many others of such societies, sending money and goods to the parent society, we have received no official records whatever; but enough is known of their efficiency during that short period of their labors, to make it certain that they would have proved valuable auxiliaries in administering substantial aid and comfort to the soldier.

A record, embracing the name of the society, the date of its organization, a list of its officers, and the amount of either money or goods contributed to the parent society, has been received from two hundred and sixty-six of these auxiliaries.

About eighty of these were in the city of Philadelphia, representing churches of all the evangelical denominations. These contributed during the year in money some fifteen thousand dollars.

The whole number whose records appear on our books (266,) were located in seventeen different States of the Union, and the aggregate of their receipts, as reported to the Commission, amounted to nearly *two hundred thousand dollars*.

These figures can by no means convey an adequate idea of the amount of self-denying labor performed by these societies, or the results of such labor. They cannot be estimated. Neither are they complete as regards the amount contributed, for the reason that a very large amount of stores and boxes of clothing, prepared by Ladies' societies, were forwarded to the Commission, whose valuation could not be obtained. This is particularly true in regard to country localities, especially in the west and north, where stores could be much more easily obtained than money, and the figures in such cases are not just criterions of the loyalty or liberality of such neighborhoods.

Rev. W. E. Boardman, (former secretary of the United States Christian Commission,) rendered efficient service in the organization and early history of our Ladies' Christian Commission.

Rev. George J. Mingins was associated with this movement on the Pacific coast. And the ladies of California and Oregon, though so far removed from the fields of deadly conflict, were behind none in their labors and gifts for the soldiers' comfort.

The Lord has brought our work, as a Commission, for the welfare of soldiers and sailors, to an end. For whatever of good has been accomplished, to *His* name be all the praise.

MRS. W. G. CROWELL,

*Sec. of National Committee on Ladies' Christian Commissions.*

ROBERT J. PARVIN,

*Chairman, &c.*

## CLOSING OF THE COMMISSION.

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THE Fourth and Closing Anniversary of the Commission was held in the Hall of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C., on Sabbath Evening, February 11th, 1866. The Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity—thousands of those who came were unable to gain admittance. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House, presided. The Scriptures were read by Rev. Dr. Taylor. Prayers were offered by Rev. Dr. Boynton and Rev. Lemuel Moss. A statement of the work was made by Geo. H. Stuart, Esq.; an abstract of the Annual Report was read by Rev. E. P. Smith; and addresses were delivered by Speaker Colfax, Maj. Gen. Auger, Rear Admiral Davis, Hon. J. R. Doolittle, Bishop Simpson, Rev. Herrick Johnson, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw, and Charles Demond, Esq. The singing was led by Philip Phillips, Esq., of Cincinnati. The Benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Dyer. Chief Justice Chase, members of the Cabinet and of both Houses of Congress, Lieut. Gen. Grant and a large number of military and naval officers, and other distinguished men of the nation were present. At a late hour the large audience reluctantly left the Hall, and thus closed, in the nation's Capitol, the last of this most interesting series of meetings.

The Final Business Meeting of the U. S. Christian Commission was held in Washington, D. C., on the evening of Saturday, February 10th, 1866, when the following Preamble and Resolutions, were unanimously adopted as expressive of the feelings of the Commission at the closing of its labors:—

*Whereas*, The causes which brought into existence and have continued for four years the labors of the UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION have now happily ceased, therefore,

*Resolved*, That our most sincere thanks are due to ALMIGHTY GOD for the termination of the Rebellion, and for thus opening the whole country to the influences of Education and Religion.

*Resolved*, That we also express our devout gratitude to GOD, for His blessing upon the officers and delegates of the Commission in their efforts to relieve the sufferings of our soldiers and seamen—and to impart to them—and especially to the sick and dying—that instruction and consolation in the religion of Jesus, which is beyond price.

# SUPPLÉMENTARY REPORT

OF

## FIELD STATIONS AND WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND FOR 1864.

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The following statements of work in Tennessee and Georgia, failed to take their proper place in the last annual report, and are here presented as having too much interest to be without preservation in some recorded form.

### NASHVILLE.

This station continues as heretofore to be our base of operations. Stores are here received, and assorted and forwarded. Delegates here enter army lines, and are assigned to their work in the hospitals and camps of the city or at stations farther on. Our Delegates' Home has witnessed delightful scenes of Christian love and toil. Through the kindness of Mrs. Harris we have occupied one of the largest residences in the city for the home. Our store room and reading and writing room have been furnished free of rent by order of General Thomas. Our daily prayer meeting, McKendree chapel omitted, and in the Zollicoffer Barracks the daily prayer meeting, commenced during the first week that the Christian Commission occupied Nashville, has never failed. These barrack meetings are becoming quite a feature in our work. All soldiers passing in detachments or regiments, to or from the front, are quartered in these barracks for the night and sometimes for a week.

The same is true at Louisville. Here time hangs heavily. Often there are very destitute men here. Our meetings, and our personal aid and sympathy, are always acceptable, and often result in unex-



pected good. Many times in our meetings farther on to the front, do we hear soldiers speak of the meetings they had in Louisville and Nashville barracks, where they were impressed, and came back to their regiments resolved to do and to be better. While the regiments were going home on their veteran furlough, all the barracks of the city were filled, and sometimes a regiment would be awaiting transportation for a week or ten days, our meetings of one, two, or three times daily, were of great good in recalling home pledges and strengthening the men for a new enlistment. Some of the men who took so active a part in the great revival at Cleveland and Ringgold were awakened at these barracks as they were passing to the front.

Mr. T. R. Ewing, of Pennsylvania, has been in charge of this station work, assisted by Deacon Charles Crosby, of Massachusetts. Of the hospital stores distributed, large quantities during the year have come mainly from Cincinnati and Pittsburg; Indianapolis and Buffalo have also contributed freely.

#### MURFREESBORO'

station has continued through the year and until May in charge of H. C. Houghton, Esq. Our writing and reading room, and daily prayer meeting, and the continual labors of two or more delegates with relief stores, have been of great help to the comfort and spiritual welfare of the soldiers at this post.

#### HUNTSVILLE

station was superintended by Rev. H. D. Lathrop until the movement on Atlanta brought him to the charge of the work in Chattanooga, and this station was discontinued for a few months until our forces, falling back from Atlanta in November, gathered around Huntsville and made it an important station again. Rev. H. McLeod was in charge when Huntsville was evacuated, and brought off his forces and stores with but slight loss.

#### BRIDGEPORT, ALABAMA.

This station, mentioned in the last report as set up and superintended by Rev. R. D. Douglass, was last in the charge of Rev. N. B. Critchfield,—when Mr. Douglass, following the 11th Corps, went to Lookout Valley. Our usual station work of hospital distribution, chapel service, reading and writing room, was very satis-

factorily continued here. On the assignment of Mr. Critchfield to active work at the front, where he was afterwards appointed chaplain of 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Sergeant Clough, a disabled Ohio soldier, was detailed to our service, and was placed in charge of our station.

#### LOOKOUT VALLEY.

General Hooker's men, the 11th and 12th Corps, gathered together in winter quarters in Lookout Valley in the month of February. Mr. Douglass set up his station quarters and chapel near the railroad station, one mile from General Howard's head-quarters. General Howard not only approved and gave us efficient aid, but he evidently enjoyed the presence and work of the Commission. In addition to our usual Sabbath services in the chapel, a Sabbath school for soldiers and citizens was established. The citizens were the women and children—poor whites of the valley. An adjutant of General Howard was the superintendent, and the General had a class of a dozen of the smallest children. A great amount of work was done, and well done, at this station. General Howard speaks of it in a letter to Philadelphia as a "model station," and adds:—"I have frequently visited the Commission tent of its agent, Mr. Douglass. Your General Field Agent, Rev. Mr. S., was with us last Sabbath in our Sabbath school. He instructed the poor children in a wonderful manner. At five that afternoon he preached to a large audience at my head-quarters. The soldiers listened with marked attention, and many a rugged man was effected to tears. Some one of the delegates preach at these head-quarters nearly every Sabbath evening.

"I regard this little station of the Commission of incalculable benefit to this command. There seems to be complete harmony and co-operation between the delegates and chaplains, as there ought to be between men working for a common Lord.

"At one time after the battle of Chattanooga, in the long march to Knoxville and back, there was considerable sickness in the command and much of a scorbutic character, whereupon your agents promptly furnished us with potatoes and other vegetables, which it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain through any other channel at that time."

#### CHATTANOOGA.

Rev. William A. Lawrence took charge of this station after the

battle of Mission Ridge. He was joined soon after by Rev. J. F. Loyd who took the direction of the religious work of the camps and hospitals at Chattanooga, until in the reorganization of the army under General Sherman, the Eleventh and Twelfth corps were consolidated into the Twentieth under General Hooker, and General Howard, was assigned to the command of the Fourth corps. Mr. Loyd took charge of the Commission work in the Fourth corps then lying at Cleveland, preparing for the Atlantic campaign. We give herewith extracts from Mr. Loyd's report of his work:—

"I reached Chattanooga soon after the battle of Mission Ridge. I found here a well-organized corps of efficient delegates who were visiting the sick and wounded, holding services, distributing stores, and writing letters. By request of the field agent, I assumed the direction of delegate-work, leaving to Rev. W. A. Lawrence the management of finances and general business matters.

All the churches were used by the military authorities, either for hospitals or other purposes; except the Roman Catholic, which was protected by a safe-guard, granted by General Rosecrans.

We had no special light diet-kitchen then, but under the supervision of Mrs. Dickenson delicacies were daily prepared and sent by the hands of delegates or messengers from the hospitals to the patients. I remember going on one occasion in company with Mr. W—— and one of our older delegates, to distribute what the boys considered a luxury. It should be borne in mind that means transportation were then solicited, and that it was well nigh impossible to get stores through. Even the wounded men in hospitals had only hard bread and side meat. In many cases we prepared dishes for sick patients before entering the hospital. In one ward there were seventeen patients, and we had but sixteen messes, each consisting of a piece of corn bread, a baked potatoe hot from an oven, and a little stewed fruit. When it was known that a fellow-sufferer had not his share, a comrade on another cot cried out, "Here, give him mine, I'll do without."

A stout Wisconsin man, with a leg shot off, holding up his potatoe, said, "Boys this seems like getting back to God's country once more."

The mortality among the patients was unusually great, owing in great part to a lack of proper nourishment. On the first of January I visited the general field hospital, south of Chattanooga, near

the foot of Lookout Mountain. The storm which had raged in the night, had thrown down about twenty tents. In some cases convalescents had crawled out during the storm to assist the nurses in holding the tents to prevent their falling upon the wounded. In company with Mrs. Wittenmyer, Rev. Mr. Edie and Mrs. Bickerdyke, we passed through the tents.

The feet of some of the men were frozen, and freezing still. The wind was blowing in at every corner of the tent, and through every lap of the canvass. The whole presented a scene of suffering such as I wish never again to witness. Mrs. Bickerdyke, like an angel of mercy, had been up till midnight, and was out again at four o'clock in the morning with heated bricks and stoves, doing all in her power to relieve the intense suffering.

The first week in January having been set apart as a week of prayer, we determined to observe it, and appointed a meeting for one o'clock at our reading room. When the hour came there were about thirty convalescents in the room awaiting a boat. We announced to them the fact, that this week had been set apart for a concert of prayer, to be observed by Christians throughout the world, and, that we wished to commence our prayer-meeting. They sat down; we circulated hymn-books, sang, prayed, read a portion of Scripture, and had commenced commenting briefly, when the boat was announced.

Instantly, nearly every man was on his feet, and with knapsack hastily arranged, was making for the door. One, feeling that some kind of an apology was due, said, "We would like to stay and hear you, mister, but the boat has come and we want to go." A few remained, and we resumed our comments. By the time of closing, the house had pretty nearly filled up again.

Finding the meeting profitable, we concluded to continue it, and it became a daily institution.

For a description of our daily duties, I give herewith the work of

#### A DAY IN THE READING ROOM

We open at 9 o'clock, A. M., and close at 3½ P. M. Long before nine, men are trying the door, and when it is finally opened the room fills up in a few minutes. From that time till closing nearly every pen is in motion,—a dozen men at a time writing letters. We use an old store-room with a counter on each side. That on the south

—we front east—has a row of seats behind it where these writers sit. Our inkstands are fastened by means of a piece of tin, six inches long. A hole is in the centre through which the neck of the bottle is thrust, the ends are then bent down and nailed on the counter. This secures them against *military* transportation. One or two copies each of *Harper's*, and the *Atlantic*, and *Continental Monthlies*, are fastened by slender chains to the counter. In front of each counter is a row of seats, where we have from twenty to forty men sitting, reading our papers, looking at our monthlies, or enjoying the illustrations of *Harper's Weekly*, which we keep always on file. Our library is at the far end of the room behind the counter, but there is space enough near the wall for the boys to get around to it and pick for themselves. It is a very poor one, and I feel half ashamed of it, but still it is much better than none. On the south side of the room is quite an array of papers, soldiers' books, and Testaments. The poor delegate who stands behind the counter has a busy time of it. At about half-past twelve some one takes his place while he goes up to the dining-room for his lunch. At one, he or some other announces, "It is our prayer-meeting hour; please be seated and we will commence." One or two go out, the rest quietly sit down, the writers lay down their pens and pick up the Hymn Books, and service begins. As the meeting progresses the holy fire burns, fervid amens are heard, the singing is earnest and the prayer of the soldier who has fought many battles for his country, and feels that God has protected him, is humble yet touching. Now a few minutes are devoted to speaking. This is always interesting. One remarked: "The trials, temptations, and sufferings in the army are many and severe. I have been much exposed to them, and while I have not been as victorious as I ought and would like to have been, yet God has kept me from falling. I have served God for twelve years, and have enjoyed more of religion, and have grown more in grace this last year, than in all the other years together. I want to be more faithful, more holy, and kept from sin. Brethren, pray that it may be so." Another: "It is now twenty-eight years since I entered God's service, and three years since I entered the army. My mind and time have been much taken up with worldly affairs; so much so that I have not had time to attend the prayer meeting till to-day. I am glad to be here and to meet with you. It is a cross for me now to stand up and speak, while

at home I used to speak two and three times a week, but of late I have grown so cold and worldly that I find it a cross to speak to you of Christ. I am ashamed of it and sorry for it. Pray that God may forgive me and make me better." Another:—"I stand up as a witness for Christ to-day, willing to serve Christ, but I come short. Since I left home I have had no opportunity of waiting upon God except the one I now have. If I should die or fall in battle I hope it will be well with me. I trust that I have made my peace with God."

A fourth:—"I am thankful for the privilege of meeting with the friends of Christ in this place to-day. To meet with you is a relief from the company of the wicked and profane. My heart has been chilled and religion has grown cold by the petty conversation and conduct of my ungodly comrades. I only heard of this meeting two or three days ago. To me it is as refreshing as a spring in a desert to a thirsty traveller. Only five years since I professed faith in Christ. I was born in Scotland, brought up religiously, but lived ungodly like the prodigal. God made me feel my guilt and misery, and in my distress I cried unto him, and He heard my cry. He took me out of the deep pit, from the miry clay, set my feet upon a rock, established my goings, and put a new song in my mouth. God be praised."

The prayer meeting lasts only three-quarters of an hour unless it is very interesting, when we sometimes permit the whole hour to be used. The benediction is pronounced, the service is ended, and the delegate returns to his post behind the counter.

Perhaps twenty or thirty soldiers have come in, and a dozen or more are waiting to be served. One has returned a book and wishes the record cancelled. Another has just selected one and wishes it charged to him. This one wants a sheet of paper, another a pen, etc. Here a man wants blackberry cordial. There is one would like a few apples for a sick man. This young man has wrapped up a neat photograph shadow of himself, and wants a little paste to fit it for the mail. But the soldiers are orderly. They wait very patiently for you to get through with one thing; but they allow no waste of time. If you are folding papers they will wait for you to fold fifty, perhaps, before they will interrupt; but, if you walk down toward the other end of the counter, a half a dozen will be sure to hail you for something in passing.

But the closing hour has come. The room is crowded. A half dozen letters are yet unfinished. The delegate is tired. What can he do? "Our closing hour has come, gentlemen. Please finish your letters, and make your selections of books, as quickly as possible." The sidewalks are yet full of men passing and repassing. "Christian Commission" arrests the attention of a soldier. He stalks in, followed by one or a half dozen comrades. What is to be done? The delegate locks the door. Up jumps one or two to go out. The delegate present follows to lock it again, or else when they go out a half dozen will come in. He returns,—waits upon the men at the counter,—runs to the door to let another batch out,—tells those who stand at the door to come back to-morrow,—answers two or three questions, and again locks the door. He repeats the operation a number of times, and the room is at last empty.

For hours after the room is closed there are raps and knocks and shakings of the door, which would make the delegate nervous, but for the fact that he can retreat to our sitting-room up stairs. Here he sits down and looks over the record of his day's work, so as to make out his daily report, and, though wearied, he feels that he labors in a good cause, and he fervently prays that God may bless the Word, water the seed sown, and make it produce abundant fruit.

About the last of January the Baptist Church was assigned to us for religious services. General Johnson ordered seats to be made, and we opened it as a post chapel. Meetings were held here each Sabbath, and every evening. Soon the awakening power of God was manifest. Penitents came to the altar, and souls were converted. About the same time Rev. D. Griffin came as a delegate from Yellow Springs, Ohio. He was a robust, hearty looking man, worked earnestly and successfully for a few days, took cold, and was soon prostrated with fever. Every attention in our power was given him. The best surgeons were called in, but in vain. He died on the sixth of February. His faith in Christ was strong, and he frequently expressed, during his sickness, his submissiveness and willingness to die, and was at times filled with joy. His end was peace. His funeral sermon was preached at our rooms February seventh and his embalmed remains were sent home to his friends.

The meetings in our chapel were crowded every night, and full of

enthusiasm. The Chaplains labored faithfully in filling appointments to preach in connection with the delegates.

The men were the heroes of Chickamauga, and Mission Ridge, and Lookout Mountain. Very many of them had promised God in the thick of the fight to give their life to Him, if He would bring them safely out. And now God was reminding them of promises unkept. Night after night there was a breaking of hearts before God, and scores and hundreds found the Saviour.

The mustering of his host by General Sherman, for advance into Georgia, gave our work a new impulse in April. At Ringgold and Cleveland a remarkable religious revival began among the veteran troops, who knew very well by the three years past what it meant to be at the front waiting marching orders with the enemy lying in full force before them.

At Ringgold the crowded church every night, the full morning meetings for inquirers of the way of life, the prayer-meetings established in the soldiers' huts and even on the picket-post, testify to such grace and power of God as is rarely exhibited. A Kentucky soldier, one of the most ungodly men in his regiment, had spent the night in prayer and found no relief. In the morning he met his Chaplain on his horse and asked him to pray for him. The Chaplain promised, but said the man, "I mean now." "What, here in the road?" "Yes, here, Chaplain, now." They knelt and prayed, and others who were passing came and knelt, till there were more than two or three agreeing in the petition that the sinful one should be forgiven, and the answer came. The soldier went down to his house and carried the word of Life to his comrades. They could not resist the claims of religion when they were pressed upon them so earnestly and persistently.

The converted men desired baptism. They received the ordinance at the river,—some by sprinkling, some by immersion,—but after baptism they came up from the river to the church, and all sat down together at the Lord's table—Commissary bread—currant wine—tin plates and tin cups. These were the circumstances of the Lord's supper, but these did not keep the Master from the feast of love, nor hinder the baptism of the Spirit upon these men, whom God was making ready for four months of march and battle. For an account of the work at Cleveland and Resaca we refer again to the report of Rev. Mr. Loyd.



Major General Howard took command of the Fourth Corps, about the 1st of April, 1864. Shortly afterwards I reached Cleveland, and assumed direction of the Christian Commission work there. Rev. S. Critchfield had preceded me, opened rooms and commenced religious services. W. J. Tucker, from Andover, Mass., was sent to aid me. At our first interview with General Howard he gave us a cordial welcome, and assured us of his co-operation; he said he had ordered the churches to be cleaned, and opened for Divine services, that he usually had religious services at his Head Quarters, on Sabbath, but as he was now so conveniently near the village, he would dispense with them and attend one of the churches.

About the middle of April, Rev. Star Nichols and Brothers Moody and Bliss, from Chicago, and Brother Reynolds, from Peoria, Ill., came to our relief. Arrangements were immediately made to visit regiments, and hold brief services through the day, and invite the soldiers to our night meetings in the churches. Three of these were put in order, and soon all were filled, and the Divine approval was manifested in awakenings and conversions. A four o'clock prayer-meeting, superintended by Brother Moody, was held for the special benefit of inquirers. A Sabbath School was organized in one of the churches, and in this General Howard took an active part, teaching a class of little girls and frequently addressing the school. The religious interest increased. The General expressed to me his regret that business was so urgent that he could not attend and share in the evening services. He however was present two or three successive evenings of that week, and never failed to take an active part, speaking in our social meetings,—praying for penitents, and sometimes addressing the congregation with great power. His last address, Sunday evening May 1st, will long be remembered. The church was densely crowded. Two or three short addresses had been given, when brother Moody went down the aisle and invited the General forward, and requested him to address the audience. With a calm, unostentatious manner he commenced. As he progressed he became animated, and a divine unction seemed to rest on both speaker and congregation. When he closed, brother Moody made a few brief remarks, and invited inquirers to occupy the central tier of seats. Eighty-three took their seats as persons desiring an interest in the prayers of the

church, and some, ere the meeting closed, received comfort in believing in Christ.

One of the Head Quarter's guard, himself a wicked man, told me that their General was "a bully Christian." He said one day, while on duty, he heard some one reading and stopped to listen. It was the General reading his Scripture lesson. Curiosity was excited. The sentinel walked his beat and returning, stopped again to listen. The General was now engaged in earnest prayer.

Monday night, May 2d.—Every church was full, although the entire Corps was under marching orders. Colonel Buckner of the Seventy-ninth Illinois preached with power to a large congregation, and at the close the anxious came in crowds to the altar and many found peace. How many then experienced a change of heart we do not know. Brother Moody kept a register of the names of inquirers, of which, during the two weeks of his stay, there were over two hundred.

An order was issued soon after our meetings were commenced requiring that soldiers attending religious services should be passed by the guards, until a reasonable time after the close of such services. Brother Moody full of zeal would often remain talking, singing and praying with such as seemed deeply awakened.

One evening, on returning to his boarding house, he approached a sentinel.

"Halt!" rang out on the air,—interrupting somewhat the meditations of brother Moody. He obeyed.

Guard.—"Who comes there?"

Moody.—In full heavy voice—"Pilgrim Zion bound."

Guard.—"Pass on, Pilgrim."

The corps moved on Tuesday. Wednesday morning, being duly provided with canteens, blankets, gum-coat, shelter-tent, and haversacks filled with five days rations, Mr. Tucker and myself set out on foot to follow the army. Twenty-two miles—fifteen on foot and seven in a wagon—brought us up with the rear of the corps.

Sticking one end of a rail in the forks of an apple-tree and putting a board under the other, we pitched our tent over it, spread our blankets, held an evening devotion, and slept soundly till four o'clock in the morning.

Breakfast over, we had morning devotions in Captain Bridge's Battery, some twenty or thirty of his men uniting with us.

Saturday, May 7th.—Marched at four o'clock, A. M., went into camp near Tunnel Hill, Ga., at two. Preached to about three hundred persons at seven P. M.

Sunday 8th.—Preached to a good congregation, made up of the Seventy-first and Seventy-fourth Illinois, and the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin regiments. Just as we were singing the doxology, the signal for breaking camp came, and in half an hour we were again on the march. We halted at the foot of Rocky-face Ridge. Here we found sixteen or seventeen wounded men from the One hundred and twenty-fifth Ohio, which had driven the enemy some distance on the ridge. Returning with these to the Division Hospital located in Tunnel Hill, we gave our attention to the souls and bodies of the wounded and dying, as circumstances permitted.

Monday Night.—Col. Buckner, alluded to above, was brought in severely though not mortally wounded. He was calm, resigned and happy. The religion he had preached in health, now comforted him.

To show that neither the march, nor the excitement of approaching battle had dissipated the religious feeling awakened at Cleveland I give the following instances:—

During the skirmishing at Tunnell Hill, Chaplain Burkitt of the Twenty-first Kentucky, said to me, "Brother Loyd, I wish you would come and preach to my regiment again; I have not for many years seen such a revival as is now going on in it. We have meetings every night, and had sixteen or seventeen seeking religion at our meeting last night."

On Thursday night, Johnson evacuated his strong position at "Buzzard's Roost," and fell back to Resaca. A march of nearly fifteen miles on Friday made us sufficiently weary to camp and enjoy a good sleep on the ground without shelter. We were now with the hospital train, and the only disturbance of our slumbers was occasioned by the restlessness of the mules, whose heels were in rather close proximity to our heads.

About noon of Saturday, the battle commenced. I will not attempt a description. I was not in the fight but saw and heard enough, and as the brave boys were brought in with faces disfigured by blood and wounds with mangled limbs and torn and bleeding bodies, I began to realize the horrors of war.

We gave attention to Newton's Division Hospital, which had about three hundred and fifty wounded during the battle.

Monday 15th.—The enemy evacuated Resaca. In the evening I went with an ambulance train, containing one hundred and twenty of our wounded to the depot at Resaca. The men were transferred to box cars, the floors being covered with straw, and the poor uncomplaining sufferers adjusted themselves, as best they could, for their long, painful ride to Chattanooga.

Not being able to march with the corps, I remained at Resaca.

Rev. H. D. Lathrop and others came next day. We secured an old double-log house with slab floor and a wide open hall connecting with a porch in front and with sheds in the rear. Here we commenced operations. Some captured and confiscated sacks of rice and corn meal were obtained. Camp kettles were borrowed, and brother Lathrop and myself tried our skill in boiling rice and making mush. Plates and dishes we had not, but the soldiers held out their tin cups, or some picked up fruit cans, and we filled them from the mush or rice-kettle with a wooden ladle extemporized for the occasion. Our rooms were usually crowded—almost a man for every slab. We not only arranged for feeding these with mush and rice, but as the wounded were coming from the skirmish lines every day we arranged to supply them. Stores were sent us from Chattanooga, and better rooms were secured. A few days later brother Lawrence came from the front, and we established a regular feeding station. With the assistance of a half dozen soldiers we formed a rack of railroad iron long enough to hold fifteen camp kettles, underneath which we could build our fires. With these full, and a barrel provided in advance, we were ready for anything. We drew coffee, sugar and hard bread, and occasionally bought soft bread when it could be had,—often feeding one or two trains. We found that one barrel was not enough, and a second was provided.

One Sunday afternoon a telegram announced that a train containing two hundred and fifty men was just leaving the front. In twenty minutes our large camp kettles were arranged on their iron rack, and soon both barrels were full of hot coffee. The train did not reach us till Monday morning, yet our coffee was still warm and the boys drank it with appreciation. As soon as the coffee was served, our large coffee-boilers were made into water-pots and we went from car to car filling canteens with cold water. No one but a wounded soldier unable to help himself, and doomed to ride from one to three days in a freight car, is competent to say what

such a coffee station is worth. Over eighteen hundred sick and wounded men were thus fed in one week. During most of that week I was suffering from sickness, and could not go to the train. But Major Lapham and Chaplain Crissey of the One Hundred and Eleventh Illinois were always ready, with a score of boys if needed, to carry out any suggestion; and they would repeat to me the expressions of gratitude, as they heard them from the lips of the boys:—"That coffee wa'n't made in no camp-kettle." "God bless the Christian Commission." Feeding the men was not the whole of our work. On one occasion, some thirty or forty wounded men had been brought in and laid on the floor of a frame building, which served as a depot and a kind of transfer hospital; and strange as it may seem, every surgeon, steward, and nurse, to whose care they had been entrusted, had (so far as we could learn) forsaken them. We were informed and went on immediately and with the agents of the United States Sanitary Commission who had prepared some excellent coffee, did what we could for their comfort. Some were screaming with pain,—some groaning in agony,—while others, suffering from intense thirst, cried, "water! water!" The bandages were dry,—their wounds inflamed and swelling. Our first work was to wet the tight bandage; then give them water to drink. The Post Surgeon sent in some nurses. Some of us, with their help, readjusted the bandages; others passed the coffee. Soon every complaint was hushed;—we offered an evening prayer, and by midnight nearly all were sleeping.

As much has been said about the wasting of Sanitary goods, I take pleasure in stating, that so far as my observation extended, but little, comparatively, was wasted or misapplied. The supplies for the United States Sanitary Commission at Resaca were large, and well timed. When we were at the Division Hospital, and had no quilts nor spreads, no soft bread nor condensed milk nor crackers, and when our mattresses—if we may dignify them with the name—were dirty and bloody, having served for two or three patients successively, you may imagine the gratitude we felt when the Agent of the Sanitary Commission reached us with two wagon loads of stores.

While we attended to physical wants, we did not neglect the spiritual. We had services every Sabbath and nearly every night through the week at our rooms; and usually in the afternoon in

some of the camps or hospitals. We visited the Field Hospital half a mile north of Resaca, daily. The surgeon in charge desired us not to preach in the hospital tents, but requested that religious services should be held at some convenient point where the convalescents could attend. We accordingly held our services; usually selecting a position near some of the tents, so that the patients in them could hear. After preaching, we would pass from tent to tent, talking and praying with the boys, as prudence dictated. In one ward there was a great anxiety for preaching.

"Chaplain, won't you preach for us?" said one.

"And, chaplain," said an Irishman, "won't you plase praich for us? We want to hear a wee bit of civilization once more."

I referred the case to the surgeon. He said every man in the tent must be consulted. If one objected the services must not be held. I returned and asked every man. One hesitated,—said talking hurt him. Others said, "Let's have it, but make it short." I preached,—the entire sermon lasting about twenty minutes. I asked the young man if it hurt him. "Oh no!" said he, "It did me good." I reported to the surgeon, and he seemed pleased and afterward afforded every facility in his power for benefiting his patients.

August 1st I went by direction of the agent at Chattanooga to Rome, Ga., seventeen miles west of Kingston, to open a station. I found there about two thousand two hundred sick and wounded men belonging to the Department of the Tennessee.

JOHN F. LOYD,

*Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.*

While Mr. Loyd was following the 4th Corps in its marchings and fightings, and feeding the wounded at Resaca, the agents and delegates of the Commission were doing similar work at Tunnel Hill and Dalton, and Rev. W. A. Lawrence and Arthur Lawrence, Esq., and D. J. W. French were on their march and mission with the 20th Corps, and Rev. H. McLeod with the 23d Corps. At Resaca, Kingston, Pumpkin Vine Creek, Kennesaw Mountain, Acworth, Altoona Mountains, Big Shanty, Marietta, Vining's Station, and finally at Atlanta, the Commission did its work. At each station our hearts and hands were full. Except at Atlanta, the work was principally with sick, wounded and dying men.

Our five gallon coffee pots came to be the banners of the Commission, by which the delegates were known at a distance.

At Atlanta the work of distribution of reading in the regiments and chapel services again began, and the same delightful and wonderful meetings that we were enjoying when the army broke camp in May were held every night.

When General Sherman's advance from Atlanta became known, all our effects were shipped back to Chattanooga, and the two Lawrences accompanied the army, one with the right and the other with the left wing, upon their unknown march into the enemy's country.

Our work in the army was for a time seriously impeded and, we feared, wholly interrupted by an order from General Sherman, prohibiting all persons beyond Chattanooga. This order was afterwards so modified as to allow such delegates to go as on requisition of a medical officer were deemed necessary for distribution of hospital stores. Under this modification we had no further difficulty during the campaign against Atlanta, except what was inevitable in getting supplies over the long line of railroad, which was the only source of supply for 100,000 fighting men. This Commission campaign in Georgia in the heat of summer was extremely exhausting upon the delegates; many of them were prostrated after reaching home, and two died.

In November the rebels, under General Hood, following our forces as they fell back from the Tennessee river, brought the "front" into middle Tennessee, and in a few weeks to the fortifications of Nashville. In the fights at Columbia and Spring Hill the Commission was well represented, and able to afford personal relief to many of the wounded. In the terrible battle of Franklin, and the hasty falling back to Nashville there was all and more than our strong party could do. The delegates who had dressed wounds till midnight at Spring Hill, and then marched on foot with the ambulance train to Franklin, (fourteen miles before day,) and then dressed wounds till dark, came into Nashville at midnight with ten box cars loaded with wounded, and worked till daylight lifting and loading them into the ambulances. We were the sole persons in charge of these men—not even having nurses to carry them on the stretchers.

Some of the scenes in the fight at Nashville have been given elsewhere. Never was our Commission more busy or more useful. In the days following the battles, when Hood was flying in disgrace

and our men cheering in triumph, the hospitals in and around Nashville were full of dying men. Our prisoners abandoned by their rebel captors at Franklin were in extreme destitution, and had been cut off from all intercourse with home since the battle of Franklin in November. Their friends were also in terrible suspense, not knowing whether "missing" meant dead or captured. To minister to these thousands of sufferers, to console and cheer the dying, to provide personal relief, to write letters in all directions, some for the soldiers still lingering, and some to tell of death, and carry "last words," made our Christian Commission Home in Nashville a busy scene. Weeks were crowded into hours, and months into days. The delegates caught the spirit of the occasion and proved themselves to be just such men as the Commission seeks to send—home representatives. No father or brother could have toiled harder to serve and comfort loved ones than have the delegates amid these terrible scenes. Neither have we labored in vain. Every night we felt, and knew, that we had relieved dreadful suffering, which, but for our presence, would have continued. Neither have our labors been unrecognized. Medical and general officers have called to thank us for aid to their men. These testimonials from officers and privates are our richest reward. I would rather get them than a medal from Congress. The donations which the privates were continually handing in, and would not be refused the privilege of giving, were very touching testimony to the work of the Commission from those who knew. We have letters from officers daily of congratulations and thanks. I add one received a few days since from an officer who has known us long and thoroughly:—

"Please find enclosed one hundred dollars. It is my Christmas gift to our noble army and navy. I only wish it was one hundred times one hundred.

"When I think what our soldiers and sailors undergo of privation and sufferings, and remember that as volunteers these are their *gift* to the country, I am ashamed of my offerings, and feel that were I to empty my purse for their good my gift would bear no comparison with their's, for giving property is one thing but giving self is quite another.

"*Twenty-eight months* of experience in the army have taught me the various needs of our soldiers, and twenty months of observation, under the most favorable circumstances, have shown me how the



Christian Commission is accustomed to meet those needs, and I but express a continually deepening conviction when I say that the adaptation, efficiency, and economy realized seem to me to be truly wonderful.

“Very respectfully and truly yours,

J. C. T.”

## MEMORIAL PAGE—OUR DEAD.

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In the different reports and accounts of the field work of the Commission, mention has been made of those who have died in the service of the Commission. It seems fitting that we should gather their names in a memorial page of this last Report. Each one might well claim special mention, but we prefer to place them here. Their work lives in the hearts of their fellow-laborers. Their record is in the unspoken gratitude of the vast numbers of sufferers relieved and saved. Their names, to those who know them, are forever associated with all that was self-denying, and arduous, and blessed, in the work of the Christian Commission. Many returned delegates have written from home, after recovery from protracted sickness, that they had no regret for having labored in the army. If there could come messages from the departed, would not their testimony be, that it is sweet to give up all for country and Christ?

### NAMES.

Rev. F. D. Ladd,  
Rev. A. R. Dyer,  
Davis Brown,  
Rev. Henry Regan,  
Rev. F. H. Powers,  
Rev. J. B. Hill,  
Rev. Wm. Brown,  
Jas. S. Kimball,  
J. Fletcher Ward,  
Rev. C. B. Magill,

Rev. G. M. Matox,  
Rev. J. J. Tucker,  
Dr. H. Hayes,  
S. W. Tenney,  
Rev. Cyril Pearl,  
Rev. P. P. Morril,  
J. W. Leighton,  
Reuben D. Merritt,  
Rev. J. B. Adams.  
W. P. Montelius,  
J. J. Rideout,  
Capt. Jos. L. Randall,  
Rev. H. W. Martin,  
Rev. Jas. P. Fisher,  
Miss Mary Humbert,  
Miss Frances Horsford,  
Rev. D. Griffin.

This list contains all the names of those delegates and agents of the Commission who have died in the service, that we have been able to recall. We are called to add the names of the following members of the Commission to this list of the dead:

Rev. Benj. C. Cutler, D.D.,  
Hon. Ex-Gov. Fairbanks,  
Rev. Francis Wayland, D.D.

The Executive Committee were all permitted to see the close of the work of the Commission, and were dissolved on February 10th, 1866. In the brief interval, and just as the final pages of this Report are going through the press, we receive tidings of the death of

John P. Crozer

one of the first members of the Commission, and a member of the Executive Committee.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

## THE LAST GIFT TO THE U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

The Christian people of Syria, and the missionaries laboring among them, who have more than once contributed to the Treasury of the United States Christian Commission, have been among the very last donors to the cause, as will be seen by the following extract from a letter from Rev. Samuel Jessup, a missionary of the American Board:—

*Duma, in the Mountains above Tripoli, Syria,*

*August, 1865.*

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.:—You will doubtless remember that about a year since Mr. Antonius Yanni sent a small contribution to the Christian Commission. He was not at all satisfied with that contribution, and now sends you a box of articles for the benefit of those who have suffered in defence of our country. He was greatly pleased with the disposition you made of the former contribution, and feels more than willing to entrust you with full discretionary powers in disposing of this second gift. \* \* It is a truly spontaneous offering, growing out of genuine sympathy with those who have suffered for the maintenance of the right. The joyful news of peace came when the box was nearly ready, yet we know very well that the need of assistance to be given to disabled soldiers—heroes of the war—and their families, will not pass away for a long time.

I have written certificates on the paper around the cedar wood canes of their genuineness, and also like certificates on certain other of the articles. It is not an easy matter to get pieces of the wood from the original great cedar grove large enough for canes, but Mr. Yanni has an order from the Maronite Patriarch for this purpose; an order given when the Patriarch was under obligations to our vice-consul; and as he spends his summers near the “cedars,” he has every opportunity for getting the large fragments that are broken off by the wind.

When you have decided upon the best way of appropriating the articles, I would be much obliged to you for a simple acknowledgment of the gift in the name of the Commission. \* \*

With sentiments of highest regard, I am, most respectfully,

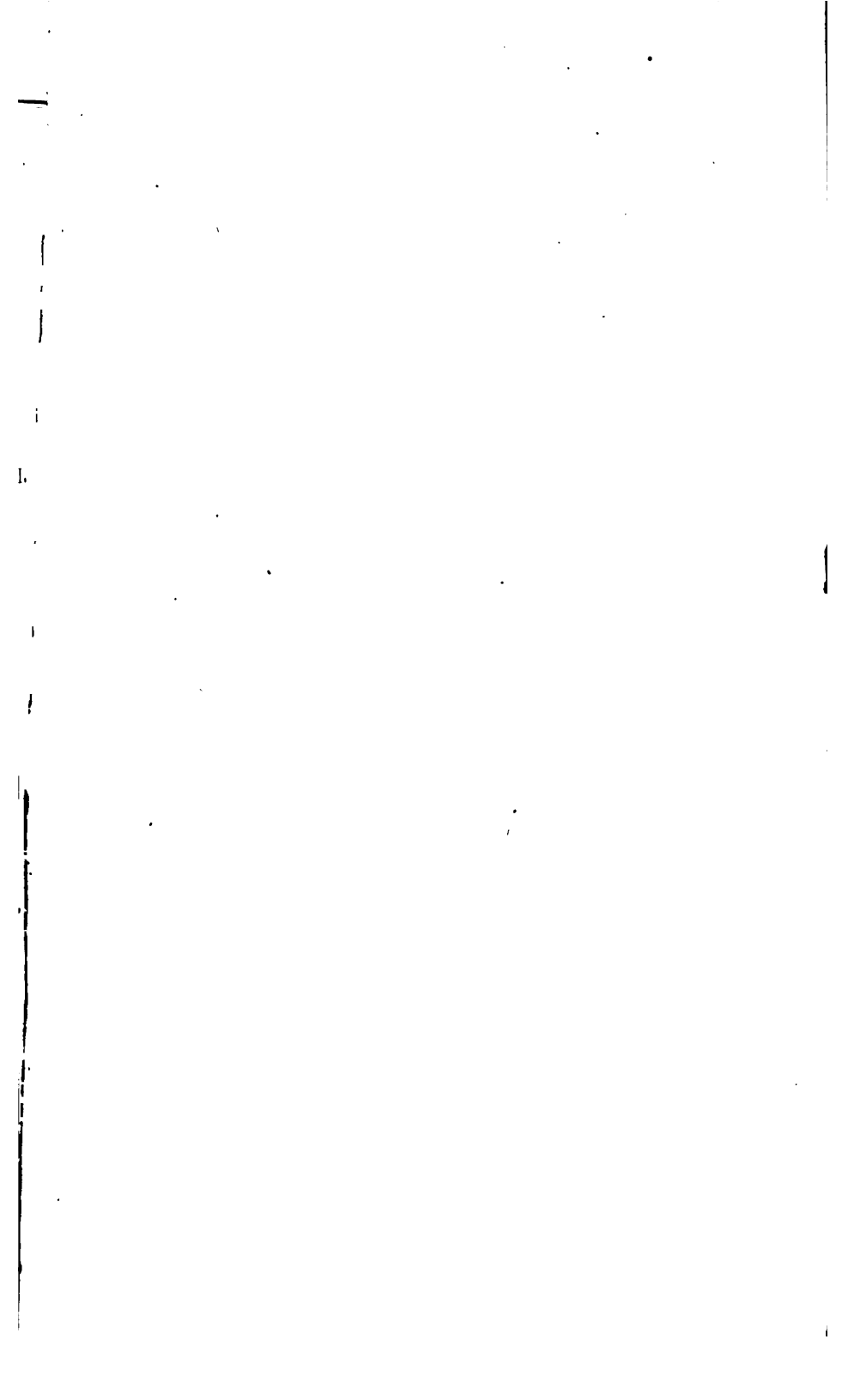
SAMUEL JESSUP.

This box did not reach us in time to be included in our statistical reports, but will be disposed of by the Trustees of the Christian Commission in accordance with the original purpose of the donor—for the material and spiritual benefit of our brave soldiers.

ORGANIZED, NOVEMBER 15th, 1861.



CLOSED ITS LABORS, JANUARY 1st, 1866.





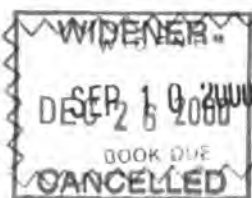


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